

EMPOWERING

PDLs THROUGH CULTURAL CRAFTS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

The Colleges of Engineering and Architecture (CEA), and Industrial Technology (CIT) led **AGAPE**, a collaborative program aimed at promoting skill development, cultural preservation, and social reintegration among **Persons Deprived of Liberty (PDLs)**. The program, which was organized in collaboration with the **Betis Dikit Festival Foundation** and the **Guagua District Jail**, took place in *January 2024* and had *110* PDL participants.

The project was carried out with the main idea of giving PDLs activities that are not just meaningful but also productive thereby contributing to their personal growth and making them ready for successful reintegration into the community. **AGAPE** puts a lot of stress on the teaching of arts and crafts like wood carving, clay casting, and painting—these classic art forms are all part of **Pampanga's** great cultural heritage. The attendees will get familiar with the technical and artistic sides of the discipline through these creative activities and at the same time they will be able to reconnect with their cultural roots and self-esteem.



The project not only focuses on craftsmanship but also includes social preparation, financial literacy, and entrepreneurship development. The purpose of the latter is to give the beneficiaries the necessary know-how and skills to create a sustainable living after they are released. **AGAPE** not only trains the individuals on the cultural side but also on the commercial side thus it connects the two worlds of rehabilitation and reintegration. So, it promotes self-sufficiency and long-lasting personal change.

The influence of **AGAPE** is not just in the aspect of skill improvement but also in many other ways such as the strengthening of self-confidence, discipline, and a revitalized feeling of optimism among participants. This process of creating innovators and job creators through education, art, and empowerment is considered to be the institution's way of demonstrating its commitment to participation in the community not only socially but also economically, and to the overall development of each and every person, regardless of circumstances.

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TRANSFORMING JAIL MANAGEMENT: CCS DEVELOPS REAL-TIME MONITORING SYSTEM FOR BJMP ME

The College of Computing Studies is still at the forefront of the initiative for the **Development of a Monitoring System for Jail Management Data Tracking and Reporting** which is aimed at improving the **Bureau of Jail Management and Penology (BJMP)** in terms of efficiency, accuracy, and transparency. The project in partnership with the **BJMP Regional Office** started in *June 2024* and is still ongoing, involving *118* jail staff and stakeholders.

The stakeholders from the **BJMP ICT Department** and **College of Computing Studies** team had their meeting where they reviewed and finalized all the necessary documents along with the system flow for the digital monitoring platform. The focus of the conversation was on guaranteeing that the planned system would really meet the operational requirements and would also be a source of efficiency in jail management.

A key milestone in the project took place on *December 6, 2024*, during a productive coordination meeting between the **BJMP ICT Department** and the **College of Computing Studies** team. Representing the **BJMP** were *JCINSP Haydy S. Bautista, Chief ICTMD; JINSP Winston M. Jacala, Deputy Chief ICTMD; JO1 Jerome D. Bernales and JO1 Mark Jayson P. Moreno, ICTMD Staff*. From the **College of Computing Studies**, the participants included *Mr. Jordan Salenga, Mr. Eden Garcia, Mr. Edgar David, Mr. Ernest Joshua Manuel, Mr. Andrei Vizcayco, Prof. Anicia Ferrer, and Prof. Julieta Umali*.

The comprehensive phase of gathering data was also provided, which gave an account of the methods, results, and insights that were used to comprehend the user needs, the system's limitations, and the existing workflows. This step aimed to discover the essential features for the users, to help the current manual system, and to make sure that the **BJMP's** goals were met.

In order to do that, the team used a mix of methods with qualitative and quantitative approach, like interviews, observations, and document reviews. The new approaches that were introduced led to a better understanding and consequently impacted the system's design and technical infrastructure. Additionally, the conference brought about the development plan's polishing and the user interface's designing completion with a big hitter in the project.

The system is projected to be a replica of **BJMP's** vow to be up-to-date, responsible, and efficient in public service delivery by providing data accuracy, faster report generation, and increased administrative productivity when it becomes fully functional.



STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES: GRADUATE SCHOOL AND COED CHAMPION INCLUSIVE EDUCATION

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The Graduate School along with the College of Education inaugurated the extension project dubbed “*Pamantabe Kareng Kapatad, Pamamye Ulaga Queng Karelang Kabyasnan at Gelingan*”, a community-directed program which took place in *May 2024* in concert with **Sitio Target Integrated School**. The project having 63 beneficiaries, its intention was to make communities stronger and healthier by means of education that was inclusive and culturally appropriate while at the same time, creating common avenues for growth and cooperation.



The goal of the initiative is to change the thinking of people and to become a social movement by being established on the basic values of compassion, inclusiveness, and empowerment to make a difference through the educational and cultural needs of the communities that are usually marginalized. Besides being a call for action, the program is an invitation to recognize the natural worth of every person and to create conditions that will lead to learning, creativity, and community development.

Pamantabe Kareng Kapatad is, if nothing else, the perfect example of the bayanihan spirit, which is the collective effort and unity of people towards sustainable development. Besides working hand in hand with community leaders, local artisans and volunteer teachers, the project also takes a participatory approach which is characterized by shared responsibility and respect for cultural identity.

The program's activities of inclusive education and cultural empowerment at the center, the exchange of skills and knowledge between the educators and the community members was encouraged. The learning process was enriched with cultural practices and local traditions that kept education the very least accessible and relevant to the people.





UPLIFTING LEARNERS: PROJECT CASAUP CHAMPIONS EDUCATION FOR ALL

In May 2024, the College of Arts and Sciences together with the College of Industrial Technology initiated **Project CASAUP: Care Awareness Service – An Alternative Learning System Uplifting Project**. The project was done in partnership with the **ALS Guagua East District** and its objective is to support the learners of **ALS** with educational and life skills assistance through the entire duration of their studies. The learners will thus be able to gain stronger academic backgrounds, acquire the necessary life skills, and be ready for the job market.



The **Alternative Learning System (ALS)** in the *Guagua East District* has always been a source of hope for the youth and adults out of school and looking for a second opportunity in education. Despite the fact that the **ALS** program is still the one that leads to personal and professional growth, numerous learners continue to encounter problems related to not being able to follow through with the lessons and not having the will power to study. The formation of **Project CASAUP** is an acknowledgement of the need to provide constant support and tutoring to the learners thereby ensuring that no one gets to be in the situation of not learning.

Project CASAUP supports the whole development of **ALS** learners through a significant combination of academic help, life skills teaching, and community involvement. The program will improve their academic skills as well as their critical thinking, communication, and emotional resilience—skills that are necessary not only for social inclusion but also for future employability.

Project CASAUP is an extensive educational outreach that goes beyond and it is a strong commitment to empowerment and inclusion. It not only offers compassion and constant support but also facilitates the learners' process of regaining confidence, rediscovering purpose, and having faith in their potential to succeed once more.

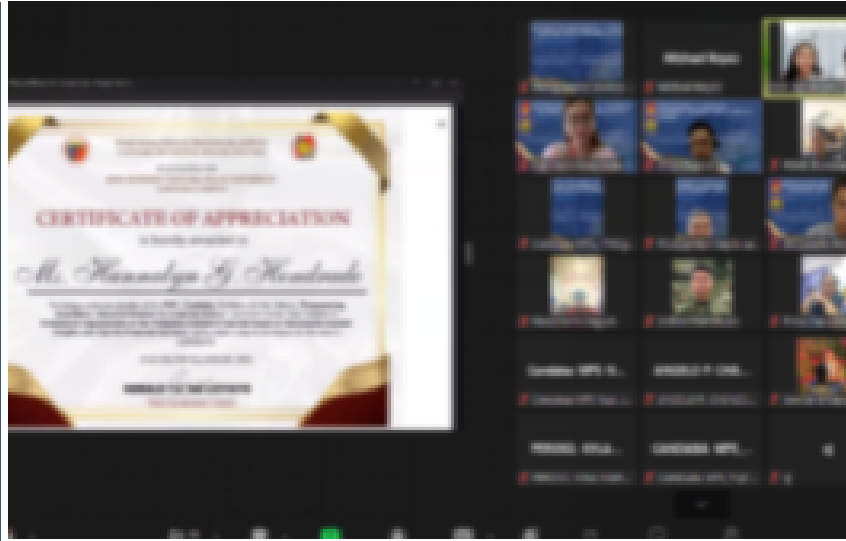
This initiative is a manifestation of the university's unwavering conviction that education is a very effective means of change. By providing **ALS** learners with the knowledge, skills, and values required for success, **Project CASAUP** not only promotes individual transformation but also the community's collective progress and well-being.



EQUIPPING PROTECTORS: PNP OFFICERS GAIN FINANCIAL WISDOM THROUGH DHVSU PARTNERSHIP

To maintain the overall health and wellness of law enforcement officers more or less included DHVSU Candaba Campus and the Philippine National Police – Candaba partnership which together held a financial literacy webinar entitled “Empowering Guardians: Financial Wisdom for a Secure Future” on March 6, 2024. The initiative aimed at training 150 PNP staff on the basics of financial management, encouraging them to take responsible budgeting, tracking their expenses, and investing smartly for long-term financial stability.

The session began with an Opening Prayer and the Philippine National Anthem which created a very solemn and patriotic atmosphere that matched the participants’ feeling of sharing duty towards the community and their profession. *Police Lieutenant Colonel Gerald Tayag Licyayo* gave the opening speech pointing out how financial education could empower public servants as a tool.



Raniel S. Bondoc, MBA, the **Academic Chairperson of DHVSU Candaba Campus**, stressed the very significant role that financial literacy can play in giving officers the power to act as responsible custodians of the community.

Mr. Gello M. Hondrade and *Ms. Hannalyn G. Hondrade*, who are both finance professionals, facilitated engaging and informative sessions on budget allocation, management, and investment for police officers. Their communication was such that even the most difficult issues of the layman’s financial world were made so easy to understand.

A lively and open forum accompanied by a lot of questions as well as answers from the speakers, allowed the audience to ask questions and share their difficulties in handling finance thereby promoting a sort of communication to deal with real-life financial problems. At the end of the event, certificates were awarded and *Ms. Kathleya Vianca P. Habon, MAELLT*, in her closing remarks, thanked everyone present and reminded them that applying what they have learned to their financial lives is the way to really transform their financial situation.

Not only was it a seminar, the program was a significant movement towards enabling the **PNP** officers to attain money security—this benefiting not merely their own good but also their community’s trust in them as reliable protectors.



PRESERVING NATURE: BALAKAT TRACKER BRIDGES INNOVATION AND CONSERVATION

The **Balakat Tracker Project**, an undertaking that is spearheaded by the College of Architecture and Engineering in collaboration with **Mabalacat City College** and the **Local Government Unit of Mabalacat**, is a brilliant demonstration of how digital innovation and environmental stewardship can unite to make a positive impact in the community that lasts for a long time.

The project, which was initiated in *January 2024*, aimed at nurturing the environmental consciousness, the biodiversity, and the technological advancements by teaching not only the students but also the community members about the ecological significance of the **Balakat tree**—a native species that is not only deeply rooted in the cultural and historical identity of Mabalacat City but also very much alive there.

The initiative trained the participants to use digital tools and modern tracking systems to monitor the health, location, and growth of **Balakat trees** in the community, and the project not only provided them with technical skills but also increased their understanding of environmental conservation, thus tapping into the trend where technology is viewed as a facilitator of the harmonious coexistence of innovation and the environmental responsibility.



The learners were able to put into practice the principles of environmental science, information technology, and civic education during the workshops and field activities. The participants were not only made aware of the environment but also empowered as the Earth's protectors by these experiences.

The **Balakat Tracker Project** not only served as an educational and technological improvement but also as a means of uniting the community and creating a sense of belonging among the people. Besides, it was a reminder to the residents that the battle for a sustainable and neat environment is only as strong as the people's awareness and organized actions. The initiative combined successfully the ancient and the modern in technology, thereby, winning the support of the people as a promoter of the city's natural and cultural heritage.

Ultimately, the **Balakat Tracker Project** is an embodiment of a modern thought—viewing education, technology, and community spirit as a tripartite partnership in the evolution of an eco-friendly environment and, consequently, a society that flourishes on it.

