

June & July 2025

# OSS INSPIRE

(OSS Newsletter for Student Programs, Initiatives, and Recent Engagements)



*Celebrating Progress, Embracing Possibilities*



*Feature story of La Salle Filipiniana Dance Company (LSFDC)*

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# DLSU-D Honors Student Excellence at Luntiang Parangal 2025

In a night filled with pride, purpose, and Lasallian spirit, De La Salle University-Dasmariñas (DLSU-D) through the Student Development and Activities Office (SDAO) hosted Luntiang Parangal 2025 - an annual celebration honoring the exemplary achievements of student leaders and organizations. Held on June 11 with the theme "Excellence, Service, and Commitment," the event recognized student leadership, advocacy, cultural enrichment, organizational excellence, and community service throughout the academic year.

Leading the roster of honorees was **Jake Ryan P. Olase**, recipient of the *Gawad San Juan Bautista De La Salle para sa Kahusayan sa Pamumuno* for his outstanding leadership. **Caryl Joy D. Cabrera** was named *Lider ng Taon* while the **College of Information and Computer Studies (CICS)** received the *Tahanan ni San Juan Bautista De La Salle para sa Kahusayan sa Pamumuno* award, recognizing its outstanding commitment to student leadership development.

A number of student organizations were honored for their impactful contributions:

- Grupo ng Sining Pagtatanghal ng Taon, *DLSU-D Chorale*



*Opisyal ng Taon para sa Konseho ng Organisasyong Pangmag-aaral Awardee Ms. Caryl Joy Cabrera (holding a trophy) together with her co-nominees.*

- Pamahalaang Pangmag-aaral ng Taon, *CBAA Student Government*
- Konsehong Pamprograma ng Taon:
  - *Marketing Management Program Council (CBAA)*
  - *Psychology Program Council (CLAC)*
- Ko-Kurikular na Samahan ng Taon:
  - *Business and Operations Management Society*
- Organisasyong Pang-interes ng Taon:
  - *Junior Financial Executives Institute of the Philippines – DLSU-D*

Outstanding student-led initiatives were also recognized for their creativity and community impact:

- Pinakamahusay na Proyekto sa Pangingilak ng Pondo:
  - *OBRA 20*





*Ms. Caryl Joy Cabrera stands proud with her award trophies as Lider ng Taon.*

- Pinakamahusay na Proyektong Pampaglilingkod:
  - AGAPAY: Adhikaing Ganap para sa yaring kabuhayan (Project PITO)
- Pinakamahusay na Organisasyon sa Pagsusulong ng SDG:
  - CBAA Student Government

The Opisyal ng Taon awards celebrated student leaders who demonstrated excellence in their respective roles:

- Opisyal ng Taon (University Student Government): *Ullysis Grant A. Valle*
- Opisyal ng Taon (Council of Student Organizations): *Caryl Joy D. Cabrera*
- Opisyal ng Taon (Performing Arts Group): *Cristian James B. Declaro*
- Opisyal ng Taon (CICS Student Government): *Jake Ryan P. Olase*
- Opisyal ng Taon (CCJE Student Government): *Shaine Louisse B. Em*
- Opisyal ng Taon (CLAC Student Government): *Nicole J. Fidel*
- Opisyal ng Taon (Program Council): *Chrissia Nicole L. Bagasol*
- Opisyal ng Taon (Co-Curricular Organization): *Cristine Mae I. Rivera*

- Opisyal ng Taon (Interest-Based Organization): *Renly Klaude M. Gollena*



*Jake Ryan Olase receives the prestigious Gawad San Juan Bautista De La Salle para sa Kahusayan sa Pamumuno.*

Excellence in student journalism was also celebrated through the Mamamahayag Pangkampus ng Taon awards:

- Visual Artist of the Year: *Ashly V. Maquirang*
- Writer of the Year: *Jorenz Romer C. Quinto*

More than just a recognition program, Luntiang Parang 2025 was a tribute to student leaders who serve as catalysts of change within their organizations, across the campus, and in the society at large. The event reinforced the University's continuing commitment to nurturing leadership grounded in service, inspired by advocacy, and guided by the values taught by the Father Founder, St. John Baptist de La Salle.

# DLSU-D Celebrates LSFDC's International Win



*Group photo of attendees at the "Pagbubunyi at Pasasalamat" victory lunch.*

In celebration of an international triumph, the La Salle Filipiniana Dance Company (LSFDC) was honored during "Pagbubunyi at Pasasalamat," a victory lunch held on July 15, 2025 at the Ayuntamiento de Gonzalez Reception Hall. The event organized by the Office of the University President, the Office of the Provost, in coordination with the Cultural Arts Office (CAO), recognized LSFDC's impressive 2nd place finish at the 28th International Dance Festival "Folk Harbor" in Gorzów Wielkopolski, Poland.

Held from June 28 to July 5, the international festival brought together cultural performers from around the world, each performing pieces that reflected the richness of their respective cultures. LSFDC stood out for its vibrant and authentic presentation of Filipino folk dances, earning praise for their artistry, precision, and cultural integrity.

The victory lunch brought together university officials, LSFDC alumni, and parents to celebrate the group's hard work and dedication. The program featured congratulatory messages from OIC President and Provost Dr. Cristina Salibay and OSS Dean Dr. Jacqueline Morta, video highlights of the team's journey in Poland and winning performance, and heartfelt reflections from the student performers themselves.

The gathering reflected a shared sense of pride and unity with many expressing gratitude for the opportunity to represent the Philippines and DLSU-D in an international cultural forum.

Pagbubunyi at Pasasalamat marked more than just a celebration, it underscored DLSU-D's ongoing commitment to artistic excellence, cultural preservation, and global engagement. Through LSFDC's success, the university continues to champion Filipino identity and creativity on the world stage.

# When One Dance Speaks for a Nation

At the 28th International Folk Dance Festival "Folk Harbor" held in Gorzów Wielkopolski, Poland, the La Salle Filipiniana Dance Company (LSFDC) proudly earned 2nd place, its third international recognition and first ever in Europe. More than just a personal achievement, the performance became a powerful moment of national pride, proving once more that Filipino artistry transcends borders.

Representing not only De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, but the entire Philippines, LSFDC stood alongside eight other folk dance troupes from around the world showcasing the richness of Filipino culture on an international stage. As the only Southeast Asian group in the competition, their presence highlighted the unique narratives and vibrance of Filipino tradition.

Organized by the Federation of International Dance Festivals (FIDAF), the event is far more than a contest. It is a cultural exchange, bringing together countries such as Portugal, Poland, Bulgaria, Slovakia, Mexico, Turkey, Ukraine, and Senegal. These international gatherings celebrate cultural heritage through rituals, art, and community, offering participants not just a platform, but a dialogue of traditions.



*LSFDC attended the Festival Mass before the Opening Concert at the Gorzow Cathedral.*

Throughout the event, participants engaged in symbolic activities like tree planting, multicultural Eucharistic celebrations, and open-air concerts. The experience fostered not just performance, but partnership. After the awards ceremony, dancers formed spontaneous human chains-dancing, laughing, and bonding across borders, not by choreography, but through shared joy and mutual respect.

During the highly anticipated competition, LSFDC performed two standout pieces from the Cordillera Suite, the Highlands of the North. The first, Chieftain, drew from the strength and spirituality of the Ifugao people. Performed during ritual celebrations in the Cordillera region, the piece highlighted grace, discipline, and reverence for ancestral traditions. It was followed by Banga-Salidsid, where female dancers mimicked the careful movements of women navigating narrow mountain trails while balancing clay pots on their heads with precision and poise.





*Ready to show their dancing skills on the Competition Day with their Cordillera suite outfits.*

The performance also featured the Pistang Pinoy, a medley of rural folk dances such as Maglalatik, Binasuan, and Tinikling which highlighted themes of celebration and community spirit. The performance concluded with Sayaw with all dancers returning to the stage, filling it with coordinated rhythm and movement. As Artistic Trainer Ms. Nina Ricci De Leon stated, "This is a one dance, one chance moment." Through these performances, LSFDC did not just entertain, but told stories of identity, resilience, and cultural pride.

But behind the applause and the silver medal was a deeper story of perseverance and quiet sacrifice. Financial constraints marked the journey from the very beginning, with students relying on personal savings and sponsorships from local government units and public officials. With limited resources, they had to rely on the strength of their community, from cooking meals to launching fundraisers, and pushing through schedule limitations. At one point, they faced the added academic pressure of Finals Week with long rehearsals bleeding into late-night study sessions.

The requirements for their Schengen visa applications were equally daunting, strict, time-consuming, and made even more stressful by the fact that they had less than a month left before departure. With typical visa processing taking 15 to 30 days, every moment felt like a gamble. There were days when it seemed safer to let the dream go. But giving up was never an option. Every decision felt like a leap of faith, and the students pressed on.

Even upon arriving in Poland they had to adjust to a foreign environment, food, and climate. Yet the team, guided by purpose and discipline, recalibrated their performances to fit the venue and audience. And while they physically were far from home, emotionally, they were never far from home. Buoyed by the unwavering support of their families, the dedication of their faculty, and the grit instilled in their training, they endured. What they brought to Poland wasn't just talent. It was the result of resilience, unity, and an unshakable belief that the Filipino spirit belongs on the world stage.

Amidst all the hardships, what truly made the journey unforgettable wasn't just the silver medal, but the genuine human connections they formed across borders. Beyond the trophies and titles, the festival gifted them with something far more lasting: friendship and understanding.



*At the Gorzow Cathedral Square before the Opening Concert rehearsals.*

One of the most memorable events was the “Let’s Dance Together” day, where participants were not just observers but active learners of each other’s traditions. Dancers from different countries taught one another their folk steps, sometimes without words, but always with shared laughter. As the group reflected, it became clear that dance had become their common language. Accents did not matter. Instructions did not need translation. The simple act of holding hands and moving to a beat transcended all barriers. In that moment, they were not Filipinos or Mexicans or Slovaks, they were dancers, united by passion and rhythm.

And even when the music stopped and the performances ended, LSFDC continued to leave a mark. They brought with them the Filipino spirit - warmth, hospitality, and heart. Whether through cheerful greetings, shared meals, or efforts to converse with limited words, they made sure every interaction mattered.

Delegates from Ukraine, Bulgaria, Poland, Mexico, and Turkey expressed how much they would miss the energy of Team Philippines.

According to their Polish guides, Ms. Ada Świerzko and Mr. Jordan Rżany, the Philippines was the “best group,” making it clear that their impact extended far beyond the stage.



*LSFDC with its trainer receiving the prize during the Exit Gala.*

In the end, LSFDC’s silver medal is not just a symbol of artistic excellence, it is a reminder that Filipino talent belongs on the world stage. More importantly, it proves that dance rooted in love, culture, and identity can be a powerful bridge between people, no matter where they performed or how long they stayed, the joy, resilience, and pride they shared will echo far longer.

Because when one dance speaks for a nation, the whole world listens.

# OSS Unveils Strategic Plans at DLSU-D PRIME Team Final Planning Event



*Attendees listen attentively as Dr. Morta outlines OSS's initiatives for AY 2025-2026.*

With a renewed vision for student success, the Office of Student Services (OSS) charts its bold direction at the DLSU-D PRIME Team Final Planning Event held on July 17, 2025 at the Bayleaf Cavite. The event served as a platform for university offices to present their goals and initiatives for the coming year with OSS taking a leading role in articulating a clear, student-centered roadmap.

## Strategic Objectives for SY 2025-2026

OSS Dean Dr. Jacqueline Morta presented three key strategic objectives designed to enhance wellness, discipline, and student development across the university:

- **Wellness Access for All**

OSS aims to ensure that 90% of students have access to wellness services by the end of the academic year through a robust calendar of wellness programs, counseling sessions, and awareness campaigns—both onsite and online.

- **Empowered and Disciplined Student Body**

OSS targets 80% student awareness of their rights, responsibilities, grievance mechanisms, and anti-bullying policies by year end through a comprehensive student discipline program,

- **Dynamic Student Development Programs**

At least five flagship student development programs—BUTIL, SIBOL, LAGO, ANI, and Luntiang Parangal will be delivered, aiming for 80% satisfaction and participation among student organizations and groups.



*A group photo of Deans, University Provost, and Dr. Aldrin Antivola following the commitment signing ceremony.*

## Strategies to Drive Impact

To realize these objectives, OSS outlined the following core strategies:

### 1. Expanded Wellness Outreach

OSS seeks to make mental health and well-being services more visible and accessible to the student body by strengthening access to wellness programs through enhanced onsite and online promotions.



### 2. Year-Long Discipline Education

A structured discipline education campaign will be rolled out across all colleges and year levels to build a culture of accountability and respect.

### 3. Amplified Communication and Engagement

Multi-channel communication campaigns will ensure at least 80% of target student groups are informed and engaged in OSS programs.

The presentation was met with strong support from university administrators and stakeholders followed by a commitment-signing ceremony, symbolizing the collective dedication of all university units to the successful implementation of their strategic plans.

As DLSU-D moves forward to a new academic year, OSS stands ready to transform these plans into impactful action to ensure that every DLSU-D student thrives in a safe, supportive, and empowering campus environment.

## DLSU-D NSTP Office visits USLS for Benchmarking

The National Service Training Program (NSTP) Office of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas (DLSU-D) visited the University of St. La Salle (USLS) in Bacolod City, Negros Occidental for a benchmarking activity on Monday, June 23, 2025.

The visit focused on the exchange of best practices in NSTP implementation, operations, and activities, including how both universities address challenges and leverage opportunities to ensure the program's continued relevance and responsiveness to community needs.



*NSTP-CWTS faculty members with Mr. Dexter Ian Tabujara (3rd from right), Head of the NSTP Cluster Coordinators at USLS.*

Dr. Rowela A. Chui, Dean of the College of Arts and Sciences officially welcomed the DLSU-D delegates.



*Mr. Dexter Ian Tabujara, Head of USLS NSTP Cluster Coordinators, presents the office's key accomplishments and initiatives.*

Mr. Dexter Ian M. Tabujara, Head of USLS-NSTP Cluster Coordinators, presented the office's objectives, key programs, and achievements. He highlighted the university's Drug Education Program which contributed to USLS being recognized as a CHED Awardee for Excellence in NSTP. He also emphasized the role of their active National Service Reserve Corps (NSRC) Unit in relief operations and disaster response efforts.

Mr. Tabujara further shared USLS's strategic partnerships with various government and non-government organizations, including the Philippine Society of NSTP Educators and Implementers (PSNEI), the Philippine Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (PDRPMC), and the Council of NSTP Educators for CHED Region 6 and 18.



*Ms. Jemily Puchero, Chair of DLSU-D NSTP-CWTS, shares the office's programs and best practices during the learning exchange.*

Representing DLSU-D, NSTP-CWTS Chair Ms. Jemily M. Puchero presented the office's identity, vision and mission, program offerings, and ongoing initiatives. She also discussed the office's strengths and current areas of concern related to NSTP implementation.

The DLSU-D team sought insights from Mr. Tabujara on matters such as NSTP fees, transportation logistics, staffing, program implementation strategies, and the establishment of a School-Based NSRC Unit.

Also present during the engagement were NSTP facilitators and staff from USLS who actively supported the exchange of ideas and experiences.

# OSS Dean Joins Global Dialogue at IASAS General Assembly

Dr. Jacqueline Morta, Dean of the Office of Student Services (OSS), participated in the International Association of Student Affairs and Services (IASAS) General Assembly held on June 20, 2025. Hosted in Cork, Ireland, the event was conducted in hybrid format, allowing participants from around the world to join in person and virtually.

Dr. Morta's attendance via Zoom reaffirmed DLSU-D's continued commitment to international collaboration and excellence in student affairs. The IASAS General Assembly is a prestigious annual gathering that brings together student services professionals, educators, and institutional leaders, providing a platform to discuss global trends, share best practices, and foster international collaboration in student development.

This year's general assembly focused on several milestones, including voting on proposed amendments to the IASAS constitution and bylaws, presenting key achievements and highlights from Academic Year 2024-2025, reporting on membership figures, global partnerships, and networks, and planning programs and initiatives for Academic Year 2025-2026.



*The IASAS Board of Management Executive Officers vote on constitutional and bylaws revisions during the 2025 General Assembly.*

Dr. Morta's participation not only amplified the voice of DLSU-D on the international stage but also opened new avenues for collaboration and innovation in student services. Her engagement brought valuable insights that will inform OSS strategies and further enhance student-centered services at the university.

In a notable development, beginning school year 2024-2025, Dr. Morta, SDAO Director Dr. Eric Vargas, and SWAFO Director Mr. Ruel Elias were formally accepted as observant members of IASAS. While observant members do not hold voting rights, they are invited to attend and contribute to discussions during General Assembly meetings.

As DLSU-D continues to build bridges across borders, OSS remains steadfast in its mission to provide transformative experiences that prepare students to thrive in a global society.



# SWAFO Reinforces Lasallian Values with Fraternity/Sorority Agreement for SY 2025-2026

De La Salle University - Dasmariñas (DLSU-D) enforces policies aligned with its Vision and Mission by fostering a safe and disciplined academic environment. In support of this, the University does not allow the formation and operation of fraternities, sororities, or unrecognized organizations which could potentially disrupt campus order, safety, and student welfare.

The Student Welfare and Formation Office (SWAFO) enforces the implementation of related policies, including the "Agreement Related to Membership in Fraternities, Sororities, and Unrecognized Organizations". This document was introduced in AY 2012-2013 under the initiative of former SWAFO Director Mr. Albert John R. Puchero and draws from a similar policy at De La Salle University-Manila. Distribution and compliance monitoring began in AY 2014-2015.

For Academic Year 2025-2026, the enrollment of incoming freshmen and transferees began on July 14, 2025, and will continue until August 1, 2025. SWAFO operates as Station 6 in the enrollment process where it distributes the Agreement form and Student Handbook Conforme.



*Ms. Loren Peñano conducts an orientation during the distribution of the MOA.*

SWAFO Formadores conduct brief orientations to explain the purpose of the agreement and the submission procedures.

Students must submit a notarized copy of the agreement by August 15, 2025. The agreement requires non-members to refrain from joining any unrecognized organizations and requires existing members not to engage in related activities, including recruitment. Violations or submission of false information may result in disciplinary action, including dismissal. The University disclaims liability for incidents related to these groups.

This initiative, spearheaded by Ms. Loren Peñano is part of SWAFO's continuing efforts to maintain a secure and policy compliant campus environment.

# SWAFO Ends the Year with Reflection and Renewal at Hacienda Gracita



*SWAFO's Reflection Session on June 9, 2025.*

The Student Welfare and Formation Office (SWAFO) capped a school year of dedicated service and growth in a yearend retreat and teambuilding event at the scenic Hacienda Gracita Tagaytay Leisure Farm and Private Resort. From June 9 to 10, 2025, the two-day gathering served as both a reflective pause and a celebration of the team's shared journey.

The retreat began on June 9 with a reflective session led by SWAFO Director Mr. Ruel D. Elias, where team members openly shared insights and personal reflections. The discussion focused on enhancing SWAFO's programs, services, and internal dynamics to foster a deeper understanding of the team's impact and opportunities for growth.

On June 10, the team participated in a team-building activity facilitated by Hacienda Gracita's own staff, led by owner Mr. Danilo Alejandro, a proud alumnus of DLSU-D. In a generous gesture of support, Mr. Alejandro sponsored the venue, accommodations, and activities, making the experience even more special for the SWAFO team.



*SWAFO's Team-building*

Despite the physical demands of the day's activities, the team walked away energized, fulfilled, and more connected than ever. The sense of camaraderie built during games and shared challenges far outweighed any fatigue. Overall, the event reinforced unity among the team and provided a reflective space for continuous improvement, inspiring them to carry forward with renewed purpose and passion.

# From Reflection to Recreation: SWC wraps up the Academic Year with Purpose and Joy



*SWC Year End Evaluation SY 2024-2025*

To close a year filled with impactful programs and student-centered initiatives, the Student Wellness Center (SWC) held its Year-End Evaluation on July 4, 2025 at De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, followed by a Culminating Activity on July 5 at Wilmels Farm & Resort in San Mateo, Dolores, Quezon.

## Reflecting on a Year of Growth

The Year-End Evaluation gathered SWC guidance counselors, psychometrician, secretary and key stakeholders to reflect on the center's achievements, challenges, and progress. Highlights of the session included a comprehensive review of wellness programs and mental health campaigns, assessment of student engagement and feedback, recognition of outstanding peer facilitators, and strategic planning for the coming academic year.

The session fostered collaboration and a shared commitment to continuous improvement, ensuring that SWC remains responsive to the evolving needs of the student community.

## Celebrating Community and Well-being

The following day, the team traded reports for relaxation at Wilmels Farm & Resort, a peaceful haven perfect for reflection and bonding. The culminating activity featured videoke, swimming, and shared moments of fellowship, strengthening camaraderie and celebrating a year of dedication.



*SWC Family SY 2024-2025*

## Moving Forward with Purpose

This two-day wrap up was more than a celebration. It was a reaffirmation of SWC's commitment to holistic student development. As the new academic year approaches, the insights gained and bonds strengthened will fuel more inclusive, innovative, and meaningful wellness initiatives. With renewed energy and a united vision, SWC is ready to continue its mission: championing student well-being in all its dimensions.



# A Grateful Gathering: SAO Holds Appreciation Lunch for Campus Advisers

Advisers are more than just academic guides. They are mentors, motivators, and quiet champions who play a critical role in shaping both the minds and hearts of student leaders. They offer not only their time and expertise, but also their encouragement and wisdom. In recognition of their unwavering support and dedication, the Student Activities Office (SAO) hosted an Appreciation Lunch for campus advisers on June 3, 2025 at the DLSU-D Retreat and Conference Center.



*Campus advisers pose for a group photo during the appreciation lunch.*

The event began with an opening message from Dr. Jacqueline L. Morta, Dean of the Office of Student Services (OSS) who welcomed the attendees and expressed deep appreciation for their commitment and passion. This was followed by an address from Dr. Eric A. Vargas, Director of the Student Development and Activities Office who emphasized the vital role of mentorship in building empowered, values-driven organizations.



*Dr. Vangie Montillano receives her certificate and token of appreciation as the adviser of DUPFC.*

A tribute video and heartfelt messages from student leaders offered a glimpse into the lasting impact advisers have made in their lives. The ceremony continued with the awarding of certificates and tokens of appreciation, simple yet meaningful gestures that recognized the advisers' invaluable contributions.

More than just a shared meal, the gathering served as a moment of reflection and connection. This gathering reminded all in attendance of the power of mentorship, that behind every thriving student organization is a mentor who leads not for recognition, but out of commitment to growth, service, and community.

# At Your Service!



*Ms. Lanie R. Barrera  
NSTP-CWTS Office Faculty*



### **From Scholar to Changemaker: A Story of Service and Strength**

At De La Salle University-Dasmariñas, service is not just a value, it is a lived reality. One shining example of this commitment is Ms. Lanie R. Barrera, a faculty member at the NSTP-CWTS Office. Fondly known as Ma'am Lanie or simply Lan, she has journeyed from a student scholar to a steadfast servant-leader. Her story continues to inspire others, reminding that leadership begins with compassion, and service starts with gratitude.

#### **From Scholar to Servant**

Her Lasallian journey began with humble roots. As a student scholar and volunteer, she was given the gift of education, an opportunity made possible by the compassion and generosity of others. That gift would go on to shape not just her career path, but her life's mission.

"I was given a chance to succeed not just for myself, but to one day give back in the same spirit," she recalls. That sense of purpose eventually led her to the NSTP-CWTS Office, where she found her calling - mentoring students, guiding them into becoming persons for others, and nurturing the quiet strength of servant-leadership.

#### **The Heart of the Mission**

For her, the greatest reward has always been the transformation of students.

Whether it's a once quiet individual who grows into a confident leader, or a former scholar who returns to mentor others, these moments are reminders of what compassion in action can achieve. "It's the ripple effect of kindness," she says. "No act is ever too small."



*Ms. Lanie Barrera (center) shares a joyful moment with her students during an NSTP-CWTS activity.*

#### **Leading Through Crisis**

During the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, she continued to live out her mission in concrete and compassionate ways. She volunteered to assist senior citizens with vaccinations, organized community pantries, and provided hot meals to frontliners and barangay workers, often using her own resources. She quietly donated snacks and meals to campus staff and even offered e-bike rides to students walking long distances just to attend class.

"These were not grand gestures," she explains. "They were simply acts of presence, of seeing others and responding with what I had."





*Ms. Lanie Barrera (5th from left) lends a hand at Brigada Eskwela 2025.*

### **Advocacy Beyond the Classroom**

Beyond the gates of DLSU-D, she extends her advocacy to community outreach and education. She conducted talks in barangays and partner communities on topics like mental health, PWD inclusion, child protection, and the right to education, always meeting people where they are with both language and heart.

### **A Turning Point and Triumph**

Her career has not been without challenges. During the implementation of the K-12 program, she faced the prospect of losing her position due to lacking a master's degree. It was a painful and frustrating time, one that left her questioning her place in the institution she had faithfully served.

"But I chose to persevere," she reflects. "I pursued my graduate studies not just to comply, but to reaffirm my worth."

Her resilience was soon recognized. When the university transitioned to remote learning, she became a key support figure in assisting faculty with the Learning Management System, helping them navigate the digital shift with patience and grace. "It was a quiet role, but it reminded me that my service still mattered."



*Ms. Lanie Barrera (right) engages with Kapitbahayan leaders of Gawad Kalinga Dasmariñas.*

### **A Vision for Shared Service**

Her hope for the future is one rooted in community. "I dream of a DLSU-D where service is not the exception, but the culture where compassion is shared by all members of the Lasallian family."

She also envisions a campus where students, faculty, and administrators alike contribute whatever they can - time, resources, and presence to uplift the least, the last, and the lost.

### Living the Mission, Every Day

When asked what keeps her going, her answer is simple yet profound: gratitude. "I continue to serve because I remember being the one in need," she says. "And I believe what was freely given to me must be freely shared with others."

She continues to mentor by example by encouraging students to lead with humility, serve with joy, and transform their struggles into strength for others. "Your story," she tells them, "can be someone else's source of hope."

“A life shaped by generosity. A heart fueled by purpose. A career driven by bold, unwavering service.”

Ma'am Lanie reminds us that true leadership isn't always loud. Sometimes, it's as simple as showing up, giving back, and making compassion a daily habit.



# At Your Service!

# NSTP-LIKAS Launches DLSU-D's First National Service Reserve Corps (NSRC)

In a milestone event for Lasallian civic engagement, DLSU-D's NSTP-CWTS Office launched its pioneering batch of the National Service Reserve Corps (NSRC) through the NSTP-LIKAS: Lasalyanong Lider Kabataan para sa Serbisyong Bayan formation training. Held on June 7, 2025 at the Retreat and Conference Center (RCC), the program brought together 18 outstanding NSTP-CWTS graduate volunteers for a full day of leadership formation and training to deepen their awareness of social realities and strengthen their capacity for volunteerism, leadership, and community engagement.

## A Framework Rooted in Lasallian Values

The acronym **LIKAS**, meaning "nature" or "true likeness," reflects the program's goal of nurturing authentic Lasallian leaders - individuals who strive to "teach minds, touch hearts, and transform lives." Grounded in the Lasallian Reflection Framework of Masid-Danas (observe and experience), Suri-Nilay (analyze and reflect), and Taya-Kilos (commit and act), the training guided participants through self-discovery, social reflection, and action planning for community service.



*LIKAS Project Head and NSTP-CWTS Faculty Member Ms. Ethel Cacayuran (right), NSTP-CWTS Chair Ms. Jemily Puchero, and Faculty Member Mr. Albert John Puchero present Certificates of Appreciation to LIKAS delegates.*

## Highlights of the Leadership Formation

The training featured three in-depth sessions facilitated by experts in the field:

*"Sariling Lakas at Ka-LIKAS-an: Knowing the Self in Leadership"*  
with Ms. Irah Angelica Pallasigui-Watamura, RPSY, Philosophy and Psychology Department

*"Nilay Lasalyano: A Lasallian Pilgrim's Response to the Signs of the Times"*  
with Dr. Grace Olorga, Formator, Campus Ministry Office

*"Lasalyanong Lider para sa Makabayang Paglilingkod"*  
with Ms. Jemily Puchero, Chair, NSTP-CWTS Office





*NSTP-CWTS Faculty Members with Resource Speaker Ms. Irah Angelica Pallasigui-Watamura, RPsy (2nd from right) of the Philosophy and Psychology Department.*

These sessions challenged participants to recognize their leadership potential and actively respond to social realities through patriotism, volunteerism, and community service. The day concluded with a commitment ceremony and awarding of certificates, affirming each participant's readiness to apply the insights and experiences they gained by serving as an NSRC volunteer and community leader.

### **Student Reflections:**

#### **Testimonies of Transformation**

For many, the training was transformational.

"The training helped me realize the potential within us, the DLSU-D student body... it is possible that one day community service would become second nature and a shared interest for all Lasallians..." - Jian Jowel T. Jimenez

"[The] National Service Training Program (NSTP) is not just a requirement; it is a formative journey... This experience has left a lasting impact on all of us, reaffirming that service, especially when rooted in education, can create meaningful change. I am deeply grateful for this opportunity and hopeful for more seminars like this, where we can grow together, serve others, and live out the Lasallian values." - Hannah Ellise L. Cruz



*NSTP-CWTS Chair Ms. Jemily Puchero (left) and Faculty Member Ms. Ethel Cacayuran (right) with Resource Speaker Dr. Grace Olorga of the Campus Ministry Office.*

### **Leadership in Service of the Nation**

The success of NSTP-LIKAS represents more than just the formation of DLSU-D's first NSRC pool. It also fulfills the mission of Republic Act 9163 (NSTP Law) by developing future-ready citizens and servant leaders. The program also affirms DLSU-D's commitment to faith, service, and communion as it continues to shape students into socially engaged Lasallians ready to serve both local communities and the nation.

# **Forged in Fortitude: DLSU-D's 267th NROTCU Batches MABALASIK and KALASAG Triumph in Military Science 3 Training**

The 267th Naval Reserve Officers Training Corps Unit (NROTCU) of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas announced the successful completion of Military Science 3 by Batches MABALASIK and KALASAG. This intensive summer program was held at the Naval Reserve Command National Capital Region (NRCEN NCR) Headquarters in Fort Santiago, Intramuros, Manila, and culminated at the Marine Base in Ternate, Cavite.

Military Science 3, also known as the Summer Training Program, is a rigorous forty-five (45) day course totaling 360 hours of intensive training. Held from May 3 to July 5, 2025, the training was designed to develop cadets' theoretical knowledge, enhance their leadership skills, and hone their military capabilities. Its ultimate goal is to mold competent, morally upright, and goal-driven Advance NROTC Midshipmen qualified to lead the Corps of Midshipmen, join the Philippine Navy's reserve and regular forces, or become commissioned officers in the Navy or Marines.

The following cadets from the 267th NROTCU successfully completed the training:

**CDT 1LT Avril Hashen Merez, 3CL**  
**CDT 1LT Heleina Karylle Kimmayong, 3CL**  
**CDT 1LT Deniela Mae Vega, 3CL**  
**CDT 1LT Stephanie Dianne Cepida, 3CL**  
**CDT 1LT Jose Carlos Sumagaysay, 3CL**  
**CDT 1LT John Carl Sapra, 3CL**  
**CDT 1LT Joshua Plasencia, 3CL**  
**CDT 1LT Bien Frances Doria, 3CL**

Their achievement is not only a personal milestone but also a source of pride for the DLSU-D NROTC Unit. Throughout the training, these cadets demonstrated resilience, discipline, and unwavering commitment to service - core values that define a true leader. Their journey reflects a deeper sense of purpose and a dedication to becoming agents of positive change in their communities and the nation.

As they move forward, these midshipmen carry with them a sense of duty and a clear vision - to serve as future defenders of the country, whether as reservists or commissioned officers in the Philippine Navy or Marines.





*A group photo of cadets together with their trainers.*



*The graduates of Military Science 3 with the members of the Training Staff.*



*Eight DLSU-D ROTC Cadets successfully completed the Military Training 3 together with their Senior Officers.*



*Batch Mabalasik of the 267th NROTCU together with Vice Corps C/1LT Sanchez, Jacob Elijah A. 2CL (at the back).*



# NSTP-CWTS Office celebrates Annual NSTP-CWTS Recognition Day



*Ms. Mylene Gannaban, DLSU-D Basic Education Faculty and NSTP-CWTS part-time faculty member, serves as host of the NSTP-CWTS Recognition Day.*

The National Service Training Program (NSTP) Office of De La Salle University-Dasmariñas (DLSU-D) held its annual NSTP-CWTS Recognition Day on June 5, 2025 at the Tanghalang Julian Felipe.

With the theme “Celebrating Lasallian Service and Partnership,” the event gathered students from all 47 NSTP-CWTS classes and representatives from six partner barangays and institutions. The celebration highlighted exemplary service, partnerships, and collaborative efforts which led to the fulfillment of several student-led community service projects.

Certificates of completion were awarded to students and classes across various colleges. Medals and special recognition certificates were also given through the *Best Student* and *Best Class Project Awards* under the five NSTP-CWTS Focus Programs: Health, Education, Livelihood, Pastoral, and Self-governance.

Architect Jeremy M. Cresencio, President and Founder of iSHIFT Philippines Inc. served as the guest speaker. In his keynote address, he commended the graduates for their commitment to civic duty and encouraged them to continue fostering the spirit of bayanihan through creative, humanitarian, and environmental initiatives.



*Mr. Jeremy Cresencio, Founder of iSHIFT Philippines, shares his advocacy as the event's Inspirational Speaker.*

The success of the program was made possible by the dedication of the NSTP-CWTS administrators, faculty, and staff, whose leadership helped enrich the students' knowledge, skills, and values throughout their journey.

As DLSU-D honors this new generation of NSTP-CWTS graduates, it reaffirms its mission to immerse and empower students through service-learning, paving the way toward community engagement and sustainable development.



*NSTP-CWTS Faculty Members (L-R): Dr. Frank Villanueva, Ms. Roselie Villanueva, and Ms. Ethel Cacayuran.*



*Dr. Jacqueline L. Morta, Dean of the Office of Student Services delivers the Welcome Remarks.*



*Benjamin Teodoro of BCS11, Most Outstanding NSTP-CWTS Graduate, delivers his message of gratitude and reflection.*

# PSNEI National Congress Reaffirms Commitment to Youth Leadership and a Sustainable Philippines

In pursuit of a just, peaceful, and sustainable future, the 19th National Congress of NSTP Educators and Implementers convened from July 2 to 4, 2025 at the Golden Peak Hotel and Suites, Cebu City. Organized by the Philippine Society of NSTP Educators and Implementers, Inc. (PSNEI), the congress brought together NSTP directors, coordinators, and educators from across the country.

With the theme, “Transforming the Youth Toward National Leadership for a Secure and Sustainable Philippines,” the event served as a platform for transformative learning, inter-institutional collaboration, and advocacy, reaffirming the vital role of NSTP in nation-building. DLSU-D faculty members Mr. Julius Tibayan and Ms. Lanie Barrera of NSTP-CWTS Office actively participated, contributing Lasallian insights to the national discourse.

## **Day 1: Grounding Leadership in Values and Vision**

The congress opened with a keynote address from Dr. Evelyn Nacario-Castro, Assistant Regional Director of the Department of Economy, Planning and Development, Region VII.



*Dr. Evelyn Nacario-Castro, Assistant Regional Director of the Department of Economy, Planning and Development, Region VII delivers the opening keynote.*

Framing her message within Ambisyon Natin’s 2040 aspirations of a Matatag, Maginhawa, and Panatag life for all Filipinos, she emphasized that national development must begin with strong individuals and families, echoing the Lasallian belief that transformation starts from within.

Other keynote speakers, including Former Secretary Norberto B. Gonzales and Major Hermie P. Pava PA (RES) emphasized the crucial role of NSTP in citizen mobilization and proposed increased research and policy work around youth volunteerism, underscoring NSTP’s responsibility in mobilizing future leaders for national transformation.





*Former Defense Secretary Norberto B. Gonzales speaks on NSTP's role in citizen mobilization.*

### **Day 2: School-Based National Service Reserve Corps (NSRC)**

In one of the most compelling sessions, Major Hermie Pava, past President of PSNEI gave a comprehensive overview of the National Service Reserve Corps (NSRC), emphasizing its untapped potential in disaster response and community mobilization. He urged higher education institutions to activate their NSRC units more intentionally as key players in disaster response and community resilience. He emphasized transforming campuses into “command centers of hope” where students are not only academically prepared but also equipped for compassionate civic action. This aligns with the Lasallian value of communion in mission, where learning is deeply connected to service and social transformation.

Pava also called for the capacitation of NSTP implementers in DRRM-based training and urged partnerships with LGUs, DILG, and OCD to ensure local relevance and nationwide impact.

### **NSTP as a Platform for Nation-building**

PSNEI President Dr. Carmelo John E. Vidal shared timely updates on the role of NSTP in higher education. He emphasized NSTP's evolving identity from being a compliance program to a transformative platform for youth citizenship, leadership formation, and nation-building.

Dr. Vidal urged institutions to revitalize NSTP curricula by integrating real-world challenges such as disaster resilience, gender equity, peacebuilding, and social justice - an approach aligned with the Lasallian value of integral human development and service to the marginalized.



*PSNEI President Dr. Carmelo John E. Vidal provides national updates on NSTP implementation and transformation.*

### **Disaster Preparedness and Collaboration**

Office of Civil Defense Representative Mrs. Jaye M. Cabauatan presented the strategic goals of NSRC and highlighted the importance of embedding a culture of preparedness within NSTP programs, reinforcing the role of NSRC in DRRM efforts nationwide.



*Delegates from DLSU-D and DLSMHSI pose for a solidarity photo at the end of the three-day conference*

### **Day 3: Solidarity, Commitment, and Collaboration**

The final day opened with morning reflections followed by the Regional PSNEI Hour during which delegates shared regional concerns and resolutions.

The day culminated in the presentation of the PSNEI annual report and a symbolic commitment ceremony. Lasallian delegates, including those from DLSU-D and De La Salle Medical and Health Sciences Institute came together under One La Salle, exchanging best practices and fostering inter-campus solidarity in advancing NSTP's mission.

### **NSTP as a Catalyst for Sustainable Transformation**

The Congress served as a powerful reminder of the enduring mission to mold servant-leaders who are not only skilled but compassionate, not only capable but committed to the common good. It reaffirmed that NSTP is a platform for youth transformation. One that prepares students to lead with purpose, guided by faith, inspired by compassion, and driven by commitment to serve both community and country.

Animo La Salle!

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**DLSU-D Office of Student Services**