

# New curriculum merges tech'l and higher ed

**BAGUIO CITY** Students pursuing a degree course can at the same time acquire related technical and vocational skills integrated in the same course.

This was announced by the University of the Cordilleras President Atty. Reynaldo Agranzamendez who hosted over 200 tertiary school officials of the Ilocos and Cordillera regions in launching the ladderized curriculum last June 14.

The new curriculum to be effective this 2006-2007 was jointly launched at UC Theater by the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED). A launching at the national level is expected next month in Malacanang.

CHED Commissioner Dr. Nona S. Ricafort explained during the launching that the ladderized curriculum assures skills and knowledge competencies of graduates to match national and international work demands.

The new scheme involves accreditation of technical skills training integrated in a degree course that will enable a skilled worker to finish a

managerial course or for a freshman to attain skills in the first two years of college which he can use to work while resuming his college course.

Dr. Magdalena Jasmin, Regional Director for CHED in the Cordilleras affirmed, "The ladderized program is real good news especially for financially-challenged individuals because for the first time in the history of our country, any student who wants to pursue higher education can now do it through technical vocational programs first."

"The program was designed in such a way that every semester, the student enrolled in a 4-year course is able to acquire a certain competency. If he cannot afford to finish the entire degree, he is provided exit points every semester which make him eligible for jobs," she said.

For example, "a student enrolled in first year, first semester of BS Hotel and Restaurant Management qualifies for a certificate in Bar-

tending to be issued by TESDA. If he passes, he can work here or abroad. He can always go back when he has the resources to finish the entire course and meet the requirements for the managerial level", Dr. Jasmin explained.

For its part, UC developed a prototype ladderized curricula for two courses. As a CHED-recognized Center of Development for Excellence, the UC College of Information and Computing Sciences, through Dean Nancy Flores, presented a curriculum for BS Information Technology. Dean Isagani Paddit of the UC College of Hotel and Restaurant Management did the same for BS HRM.

UC as the country's top criminology school will offer ladderized competencies as watchman, traffic man or investigator in the first two to three years of B.S. Criminology. The curriculum integration does not however disrupt the completion of a Criminology degree upon completion of the full course.

## MDM to change MPA Masteral degree

A new course Master in Development Management (MDM) is set to replace the existing Master in Public Administration at the University of the Cordilleras (UC).

This was disclosed by UC dean of Graduate School Dr. Cleofas M. Basaen who requested the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to revise the course MPA to MDM with the objective of "addressing the felt needs of the society, in particular, an emphasis on local governance".

The shift according to Dr. Basaen is a consequence of the consortium formed among the Local Government Development Foundation (LOGODEF), the municipality of Tuba, and UC.

Observers however said the shift could have been also influenced by some schools offering MPA course patronized by several employees not necessarily for professional growth but for promotion purposes.

But Dean Basaen justified that the shift of program thrust is in line

with course relevancy and the need to redesign a course program patterned for those who work or are interested to work in development-oriented organization, program or project.

MDM is a 39-unit, two-years or less course in UC's trimester program. A non-thesis program however requires additional development units with comprehensive examination and oral defense.

The term Administration according to a UC Graduate school professor is basically an organizational process concerned with the implementation of plans and internal operating efficiency, relatively routine decision making and maintenance of the internal status quo.

The term Management meanwhile includes the process of planning, organizing, leading, controlling, staffing, motivating, communicating and decision making in an attempt to coordinate human and non-human institutional resources through efficient and systematic development processes.

## UC offers scholarship to soldiers' dependents

The University of the Cordillera (UC) offers working scholarship to dependents of soldiers in recognition for risking their life and limb to keep the country safe and preserve democracy.

The 100 percent scholarship program covers tuition and miscellaneous fees. The students will be assigned in various offices of the University as student assistants with monthly allowance.

Beneficiaries in order of priorities are dependents of combat casualties that are killed-in-action or complete disability discharged, second are dependents of non-combat casualties and third, dependents of active military

personnel.

The scholarship program is a joint undertaking of UC and the Armed Forces of the Philippines Educational Benefits System (AFPEBS) through a Memorandum of Agreement signed by UC President Atty. Reynaldo Agranzamendez and the AFPEBS represented by Major General Leopoldo Maligalig, Superintendent of the Philippine Military Academy last June 16, 2006 at the PMA Longayban Hall.

Under the MOA, the grantees may enroll in any of the undergraduate courses offered by the University except Computer Science, Nursing, Hotel and Restaurant Ma-



L-R General Leopoldo Maligalig, UC Pres. Atty. Reynaldo U. Agranzamendez, VP for Finance Saturnino Y. Ebusca, VP for Administration Angelita A. Padilla, Community Extension Consultant Edna C. Tabanda along with two PMA dignitaries.

agement and Tourism. According to the AFPEBS, who initiated the program, at least 728 men died defending the country and its people in 2005. It is the goal of the AFPEBS and the participating educational institutions to let the world know that

these heroes have not died in vain and that no

*Our Paramount Duty  
is to endow the lives of our students . . .  
with the guidance of a moral compass.*



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