



University
Charter
Golden
Jubilee

UGA

University General Assembly AY 2025-2026

UGA 2025-2026 highlights renewed commitment to DLSU educational philosophy

AT THE UNIVERSITY GENERAL ASSEMBLY THIS A.Y. 2025-2026, DLSU President Br. Bernard Oca FSC expressed gratitude to the community for their work and for reaching the Golden Jubilee of the University Charter. He also urged the faculty, personnel, students, and lay partners to recommit to the DLSU education philosophy of *Teaching Minds, Touching Hearts, Transforming Lives*, “a philosophy that springs from timeless and enduring Lasallian values: a Spirit of Faith, Zeal for Service, and Communion in Mission.”

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The UGA, which was held last September 12 at the Chapel of the Most Blessed Sacrament, also featured messages from Provost Dr. Robert Roleda and Senior Vice President and VP for Administration Kai Shan Fernandez, who shared the achievements and milestones of the past academic year as well as the University's priority goals and directions for AY 2025-2026.

"We were certainly very mindful of this promise when we announced at the beginning of our Jubilee Strategic Planning cycle, that De La Salle University is "Here for the Future". The question as ever of course remains: What kind of future? Those of us who have been around long enough will know that universities have faced a version of this existential question roughly once every decade," Br. Bernie said.

On *Teaching Minds*, he said: "Let us put all our effort, without counting the cost, toward developing knowledge and understanding among our students. Let us gently but steadfastly awaken them to their responsibilities: to society, to our planet, and above all to our Creator."

On the work of *Touching Hearts*, he urged the audience: "Let a more critical understanding of the world result in an overflow of compassion and zeal to build a just, humane, and loving society. Let our ears attune to the call of the poor, the vulnerable, and those on

the margins, and let our eyes see them as co-designers of a shared and sustainable future."

Pointing out that the work of educators culminates in *Transforming Lives*, he said: "It is not the work of individuals; the Lasallian way is to labor together and by association, so that our students go into the world ready to be competent professionals, engaged citizens, and yes, prophetic leaders, who will not hesitate to give of themselves, because they know what it is like to receive grace from others."

Br. Bernie likewise highlighted building on "Gratitude for the past, fortitude for the future." He further called on everyone to exemplify these virtues, toward fulfilling the promise of hybrid learning, first-rate service at DLSU, and using the tools and routines of high-performing teams to get the most out of La Salle's talents.



Br. Bernie's full message:



Significant developments, future directions

PROVOST DR. ROBERT ROLEDA SHARED THE MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS OF ACADEMIC YEAR 2024-2025 in DLSU academics as well as the future directions of the University for the second half of the Jubilee Strategic Plan cycle.

He cited among others, the rollout of Challenge-Based Learning or CBL at the School of Innovation and Sustainability on Laguna Campus, DLSU's Policy on Generative Artificial Intelligence, which comes into effect this AY 2025-2026, as well as the national government's proclamation that part of the Laguna Campus is now a Knowledge, Innovation, Science and Technology (KIST) Ecozone.

According to him, DLSU shall measure success by three objectives: excellent educational innovation; student experience; and new growth. By 2027, the targets are: at least 80 percent of undergraduate courses will integrate AI-enabled, experiential learning, and Education for Sustainable Development; at least 85 percent of students will report satisfaction in annual student experience surveys; and at least 10 percent of total



enrollment will come from non-traditional sources and new markets.

For her part, Senior Vice President and VP for Administration Kai Shan Fernandez presented the infrastructure developments on both the Laguna and Manila campuses, including newly completed campus infrastructure projects and renovated spaces; the completed switch-over to 100 percent renewable energy for all eligible buildings on both campuses; the launch of DLSU's new Student Life Cycle management system; continued improvements of DLSU's IT infrastructure, system security and network services; and documented improvements to the procurement system.

She also cited the recent implementation of Outcomes-Based Budgeting (OBB) as a



major step forward in being able to program and deploy DLSU resources effectively.

Fernandez pointed out that to reconcile objectives and constraints, there must be a Lasallian model of service that combines two elements: one is enhancing DLSU's in-house capabilities for delivering service and the other is doing more self-service.

For the full text of their messages:



Provost's message



SVP's message

History professor receives Papal Award

DR. RENE ESCALANTE, A PROFESSOR OF HISTORY AT DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY, has been honored with the Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice (For Church and Pope) Papal Award, the highest papal honor given to lay individuals.

Lipa Archbishop Gilbert Garcera, DD, the incoming president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines (CBCP), presented the medal to Escalante during the Archdiocesan Celebration of Pope's Day on June 30 at the Minor Basilica and Parish of St. Martin of Tours in Taal, Batangas.

The tradition of recognizing outstanding service to the Church began during the papacy of Leo XIII in 1888. Escalante received the award in recognition of his work as chairman of the National Historical

Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), where he oversaw the restoration of numerous heritage churches.

He was cited for "his dedicated service and significant impact within the Archdiocese of Lipa from 2017 to the present. He led efforts to restore the Taal Basilica in 2019 and helped in resolving heritage and legal issues concerning Taal Basilica."

The citation further states that "his initiative to be a consultant to the Archdiocese on the conservation of built heritage in Batangas has been instrumental in preserving religious cultural heritage."

Escalante previously served as NHCP commissioner and was elected as its chairman in 2017.



LA SALLE, CEBU PACIFIC INK MOA ON DESIGN ENGINEERING PROGRAM



DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY AND CEBU PACIFIC (CEB) RECENTLY SIGNED A FIVE-YEAR MEMORANDUM OF AGREEMENT for the establishment of a Design Engineering Program that will initially train 25 engineering students for real airline operations.

DLSU will work with CEB's technical experts in designing and developing projects under the program, including smart systems for aircraft maintenance and sustainable mobility solutions for the carrier's facilities.

Provost Dr. Robert Roleda and Cebu Pacific Vice President for Engineering and Fleet Management Shevantha Weerasekera signed the MOA last August 28 on campus.

"This partnership invests in more than projects -- it invests in people. By guiding young engineers to innovate with purpose, we are building the future of Philippine aviation together," Weerasekera said in a news release.



DLSU, CITY OF MANILA STRENGTHEN PARTNERSHIP ON LOCALIZING UN SDGS



DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY (DLSU) FORMALLY PRESENTED ITS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDG) CITY PARTNERSHIP INITIATIVE TO THE CITY OF MANILA during a briefing session and courtesy call with Mayor Francisco “Isko Moreno” Domagoso on August 29 at the Manila City Hall.

Vice President for Lasallian Mission Fritzie Ian De Vera and Board of Trustees Member Gina Romero led the DLSU delegation. The presentation was spearheaded by Dr. Francisco Magno, Director of the Jesse M. Robredo Institute of Governance (JRIG), who conceptualized the SDG City model as a knowledge partnership between the local government unit (LGU) and the university. The model is designed to accelerate the achievement of localized SDG targets and priorities.

The SDG City model aims to harness academic expertise, research, and innovation to support the City of Manila in identifying development gaps and co-creating solutions. As part of the initiative, DLSU will conduct a baseline assessment, which is an initial measurement of how the city is performing across the different SDGs through relevant local data and indicators. This evidence-based

approach will guide the LGU in determining priorities, designing responsive programs, and monitoring progress. Mayor Moreno welcomed the collaboration, recognizing the role of universities in shaping innovative and sustainable pathways for local governance. The collaboration underscores Manila’s commitment to inclusive, data-driven, and future-ready development in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Under this joint program, DLSU will strengthen its contributions to SDG 17 (Partnership for the Goals) by building a strong relationship with the local government. It will support SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) by providing expert advice to the local government, and will help enhance SDG 4 (Quality Education) by undertaking educational outreach activities in the community. It will promote SDG 3 (Good Health and Well-Being) by delivering outreach programs and projects to improve health outcomes in the local community.

This partnership between DLSU and the City of Manila reflects the Lasallian mission of service to society, fostering transformative solutions through education, research, and community engagement.

Knowledge and Technology for Local Solutions

Through its wide range of academic units and research centers, DLSU committed to provide technical support and innovative solutions to address Manila’s development challenges. Highlighted initiatives and their proponents include the following:

- Lasallian Health Education, Accessible Resources and Training Services (L-HEARTS) – Center for Social Concern and Action (COSCA)
- Air Quality Monitoring System – Dr. Edgar Vallar
- Pediatric Tuberculosis (TB) Clinical Decision Support System – Dr. Michelle Renee Ching
- Community-led Mental Health Support – Dr. John Jamir Benzon Aruta

- Social Enterprise Development – Dr. Norby Salonga
- Detection, Treatment, and Detoxification System for Emerging Contaminants of Concern in Wastewater (DETOXS) – Dr. Arnel Beltran and Dr. Aileen Orbecido
- Rainwater Collection and Stormwater Management System – Dr. Marla Redillas
- Titan: Vision-based Vehicle and Pedestrian Monitoring System – Dr. Joel Ilao and Salie Siao
- Women and AI for Solid Waste Management – Gina Romero and Dr. Francisco Magno
- Gintong Pamana Scholarships for First-Generation Students – South Manila Education Consortium (SMEC)

GCOE team wins Best Poster from NAST

GOKONGWEI COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING FACULTY DR. MARLA REDILLAS AND ENGR. SERGI GARBANZOS, together with their students from the Department of Civil Engineering, received the Best Poster Award during the 47th Annual Scientific Meeting of the National Academy of Science and Technology, Philippines (NAST PHL).

Their research on “Development of a Gravity-fed Drip Irrigation System Integrated with Soil Moisture Monitoring for Improved Water

Efficiency” was co-authored by undergraduate students Ruben Justine Lim, Ruben James Lim, Glen Ventura, Jamie Villafuerte, and Justine Rey Macalalad.

The Rainfall and Stormwater Runoff Management Technology for Tropical Climate (RainS Tech) team was one of two winners under the Engineering Sciences and Technology (EST) Division. The Scientific Poster Session received 294 entries nationwide.

Lasallians receive recognition at the International Conference in Engineering Education 2025

DLSU FACULTY AND STUDENTS WON AWARDS AT THE INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN ENGINEERING EDUCATION 2025, held last September 12–13 at the University of Santo Tomas.

The event, which coincided with the 70th anniversary of the Philippine Association of Engineering Schools, served as a platform for engineering educators and professionals to share innovations and best practices in engineering education.

Dr. Erica Elice Uy of the Department of Civil Engineering won the Best Paper Presentation for her work, “Exploring the role of curriculum in developing student awareness of civil engineering’s impact on quality of life: Insights from DLSU.” For the Teaching Excellence Awards, Dr. Lawrence Belo of the Department of Chemical Engineering emerged as runner-up in the Distinguished Teacher Category, while Engr. Nino Rigo Emil Lim of the Department of Mechanical Engineering was also runner-up in the Emerging Teacher Category.

The research paper titled “Design and Fabrication of an ISO-compliant foldable Electric Wheelchair using a Truss Frame and Upcycled Hoverboard Electronics”, authored by students Rjaymz dela Cruz, Paolo Miguel Gonzales, and Patrick Andrei Raquel was chosen as a finalist in the 2025 Undergraduate Engineering Design Contest. Dr. Martin Kalaw of the Department of Mechanical Engineering served as their adviser.

GCOE STUDENTS SWEEP AWARDS AT THE 86th PICHE STUDENT CONGRESS

STUDENTS FROM THE DLSU GOKONGWEI COLLEGE OF ENGINEERING clinched top honors across four major competitions at the 86th PIChe Student Congress held last September 9 at the University of Mindanao–Matina Campus.

Echoing the theme “Innovate, Collaborate, Transform: Chemical Engineering for Sustainable Progress,” the event brought together industry leaders, professionals, and aspiring engineers from across the Philippines.

The team of Alijaeh Joshua Go, Aliyah Geri Romulo, Sophia June Ng, and Jan Joshua Cruz bagged the top spot in the National Quiz Bowl, where they showcased their command of chemical engineering principles as well as analytical thinking and teamwork. Dr. Angelo Earvin Sy Choi (main coach), Dr. John Frederick Tapia, Dr. Joseph Ortenero, Engr. Christian Jay Balboa, and Engr. Cary Albert Chan served as their mentors.

Meanwhile, the research project “Production of Polylactic Acid from Sugarcane Bagasse,” which aims to create a plant designed to meet the growing demand of sustainable materials in the Philippines, earned first place in the Chemical Plant Design Contest as well as the Best Poster Award. The project team is composed of Samantha Nicole Escalante, Sofia Marrielle Jusay, Allan Miguel Abellanosa, and Gregory Grant Faelden, under the mentorship of Dr. Angelo Earvin Sy Choi and Dr. Cynthia Madrazo.

Anela Maree Jardin brought home the championship title in the ChE MOB Competition, a fast-paced, multiple-choice trivia game that pitted undergraduate Chemical Engineering students against seasoned professionals.

In the Chem-E Car Poster Competition, which made its debut at this year’s PIChe Student Congress, participants were challenged to conceptualize a shoebox-sized car powered by a chemical energy source.

Winning the third place was the team behind DLSU’s “Iron Giant”, composed of students Ralph Emmanuel Manlulu, Nicholas Winfred Natividad, Sophia June Ng and Gamille Marie Silva, together with their mentor, Dr. Angelo Earvin Sy Choi. The Iron Giant is a model car powered by the oxidation of iron and the evaporation of liquid nitrogen, offering an alternative engine to regular combustion to prevent the release of greenhouse gases.



“ Think of what a blessing it is
that the Holy Spirit lives in you. ”

De la falle

–Med 62.2

DE LA SALLE UNIVERSITY EDUCATIONAL PHILOSOPHY

In Faith, Service, and Communion in Mission,
De La Salle University carries the educational philosophy of **Teaching Minds**,
Touching Hearts, and **Transforming Lives**.



Teaching Minds is the development of knowledge and understanding, which reinforces values that bring positive change to individual lives and society through an inclusive view, conscious of one's responsibility to sustain life on the planet, acknowledging what lies beyond as the Divine. It develops learners' critical and creative thinking that allows them to nurture their hopes and dreams, providing them with strength to take on various challenges in life.

Touching Hearts follows from a critical understanding of the world, developing in learners the compassion fueled by zeal to build a just, humane, and loving society, through an inclusive and transformative education. It is a response to the call of the poor, the marginalized, and the vulnerable, giving them the hope and the opportunity to be co-designers of a sustainable future.



Transforming Lives is educational work that highlights working together and by association, forming learners into competent professionals, engaged citizens, and prophetic leaders who contribute to the renewal of Church and society.

As Lasallian learning shapes students' attitudes toward self, others, the world, and the Divine, their lives are transformed as well in ways that they can also inspire others to be transformed, helping create a future of peace and well-being.

DLSU's commitment to providing an impactful, ever-relevant education is intertwined with its mission of faith formation and service, underscoring the importance of collaboration among members of the Lasallian family, together with all its partner communities and institutions across the world.



2401 (twen'te för',o, wun) is a landmark number along Taft Avenue. It is the location ID of De La Salle University, home to outstanding faculty and students, and birthplace of luminaries in business, public service, education, the arts, and science. And 2401 is the name of the official newsletter of DLSU, featuring developments and stories of interest about the University.

2401 is published bi-weekly by the Strategic Communications Office (AH-21F, intercom 144). Editorial deadline is 3 p.m. Tuesdays.

Contributions should include the name, office and signature of the sender. Materials may be edited for clarity or space.

2401 may be accessed online through the URL: <http://www.dlsu.edu.ph>.