

WESTERN PHILIPPINES
UNIVERSITY
2024
ANNUAL REPORT

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***A Strong
Partner for
Sustainable
Development***



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Layout & Cover design: Lara Grace M. Palay, Abcide Rivera

Text: Dominic Liao, Sheila TorreFlores, Meshia Hamora, Lara Palay, Juvie Forio

 San Juan, Aborlan, Palawan 5302

 www.wpu.edu.ph

 09998812033

 pres.office@wpu.edu.ph

 /WesternPhilippinesUniversityOfficial

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

It is with great pride that I present the Annual Report of Western Philippines University for Fiscal Year 2024, my first year as the University's President. Within the pages of this report, you will find a comprehensive account of the University's achievements and milestones, borne from the talents and determined efforts of the whole University community—our faculty, staff, students, alumni, and partners—as we moved as one under one agenda of promoting sustainable development in the Western Philippines and beyond.

In particular, this report is organized according to the University's achievement of the FRESH Agenda, under which I envisioned to lead the University as its University President. This FRESH Agenda is anchored on WPU's Strategic Development Plan 2023–2027, which is further anchored in national and global priorities, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the 8-Point Socioeconomic Agenda of President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr., the Philippine Development Plan 2023–2028, the MIMAROPA Regional Development Plan 2023–2028, and the CHED Strategic Framework 2023–2028.

The following outlines the University's FRESH Agenda and our key achievements in each Agenda item this FY 2024:

Focused Yet Flexible Instruction

- WPU Quality Assured through 100% CHED COPCs on Licensure Programs, 93.18% AACUP-accreditation, and University-Wide ISO Certification.
- WPU Answers Call of Sangguniang Panlalawigan: Increases Quantity of Students while Maintaining and Improving Quality of Education.
- WPU Establishes VP for Student Affairs and Services Office, Increase Scholarship slots by 2000 Slots, Gives Free Dorm Slots to Top 10 Students in Palawan High Schools.
- WPU Exposes Students to Holistic Development Experiences, Bags Numerous Achievements.
- WPU Boosts Internationalization Efforts, Becomes First Internationally Ranked MIMAROPA SUC when it entered the THE Impact Rankings.
- WPU Produces 2,047 Employable Graduates, Wins Regional Awards for Job Placement, Pioneers Awarding of Diplomas and TORs On-the-Spot During Graduation.

Scalable Production

- WPU Generates 7.66M Revenue, an Increase by 1.26M and 2.14% more than the University Target

Robust Research and Development & Engaging Extension Services

- WPU's Prolific International-Quality Research Earns Sole MIMAROPA Winner of Global Award, 3 International Indexations of University's Journal
- WPU Receives Rare Positive AOM for Research and Extension Budget Allotment, Secures 118M External Funding for Research
- WPU Brings Research Products to Community through First IP Mall in the Country, 126 Extension Activities and the Agri-Aqua Technology Business Incubator

Holistic and Anthropocentric Governance and Administration

- WPU Achieves 100% Compliance with GAA Targets, 4.66 out of 5 Rating in APR, and an Early Bird Award for Being 1st Agency in MIMAROPA to Submit BFARs
- WPU Moves Towards Improved Efficiency in Services: Completes 90% of 2025 GAA procurement projects on Early Procurement Activities; Digitizes Disbursements, Fidelity Bond Applications, and Travel Requests
- WPU Mainstreams GAD with 5.90% of Budget Utilized for 57 GAD Trainings, 20 Partnerships, 82 GAD Research, and 3 GAD Campaign Activities, and the First MOVE Chapter in MIMAROPA SUCs
- WPU Fastracks 22 Prior-Years' Infrastructure Projects Pending Procurement; Awards 13 and Reprograms 9

This year, WPU has clearly demonstrated its commitment to fostering holistic community development through responsive instruction, innovative research, and impactful extension services. Our accomplishments during the year are testaments to our resilience, collective dedication, and unwavering pursuit of academic excellence and nation-building.



As we move ahead, we remain steadfast in our commitment to excellence and service. We will continue working together toward the realization of Am-Bisyon Natin 2040—a vision of a Matatag, Maginhawa, at Panatag na Buhay for all.

Together, we are shaping a brighter and FRESHer future for our university, our region, and our nation.

To God be all the glory.


DR. AMABEL S. LIAO
University President





Aerial shot by Abcide Rivera



ABOUT THE UNIVERSITY

Western Philippines University (WPU) is a State University located in Aborlan, Palawan mandated to “provide advanced education, higher technological, professional instruction, and training in the fields of agriculture, fisheries, forestry, engineering, environment, education, arts and sciences, rural development and other relevant fields of study, promote research and extension services, and provide progressive leadership in its areas of specialization (Section 2, R.A. 9260). Established in 1910 as a farm settlement school for Tagbanuas, it has grown into a recognized SUC Level III by virtue of Republic Act 9260.

With a current student population of approximately 13,355 in its 8 campuses across Palawan, WPU offers a wide range of AACUP-accredited and CHED COPC-compliant programs in fields such as agriculture and environmental sciences, fisheries and aquatic sciences, engineering and information systems, social work and education, public administration and business, and criminology. Annually, WPU produces an average of 2,000 graduates—the next shapers and movers of Palawan, the Philippines, and the world.

Now a leading State University in the MIMAROPA region, it is at the forefront of various key endeavors as it carries out its trifold function:

WPU is nationally recognized for its quality education, as a National University for Agriculture and a Center of Excellence in Fisheries;

WPU is the most prolific producer of international quality research in MIMAROPA, being awarded as the sole winner of the Global Health Focus's Top-Performing MIMAROPA Universities in Research Production in 2024, for being the only state university in the Region of MIMAROPA with Scopus indexed research publications;

WPU is nationally and internationally recognized for its extension services, being a recipient of the "Pro Patria Award" and the "Ramon Magsaysay Award" for its Bayanihan School Program.

WPU proves true to its vision of holistic student development and support, being awarded 4th nationwide in the 2024 PADS Innovative Awards for Drug Education and Prevention;

WPU leads MIMAROPA in internationalization and sustainability, being the first MIMAROPA SUC to be internationally ranked in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings; and, WPU is a hallmark of international quality, with the whole University being certified under ISO 9001:2015 standards this 2024.

Guided by its strong mandate for excellence, service, and innovation, WPU harbors holistic development through the interwoven efforts of instruction, research, and extension—serving its growing student population from north to south, east to west, and ensuring it remains **"A strong partner for sustainable development"** in Western Philippines and beyond.

Vision

The leading university for holistic human development in Western Philippines and beyond.

Mission

WPU commits to undertake quality instruction, research and extension programs towards a progressive Western Philippines.

Core Values

Culture of Excellence. We excel in the performance of our duties to achieve quality results.

Commitment. We commit our talents and abilities for the general welfare of the University.

Creativity. We innovate for the development of the University and its stakeholders.

Teamwork. We promote team approach at all times to achieve common goals.

STRATEGIC DIRECTIONS



1. Globally Competitive Graduates

WPU aims to produce globally competitive graduates with 21st century skills through targeted programs in policy, curriculum, internationalization, and student support.



2. Quality Assurance Certified University

WPU aims to produce globally competitive graduates with 21st century skills through targeted programs in policy, curriculum, internationalization, and student support.



3. Strong Human Resource Profile

WPU aims to build a strong human resource profile by enhancing faculty and staff qualifications through strategic recruitment, development, performance management, and recognition programs.



4. State-of-the-Art Facilities

WPU envisions state-of-the-art, eco-friendly, and smart campuses through strategic infrastructure development, facility modernization, and digital transformation.



5. Financial Self-Sufficiency

WPU aims to achieve financial self-sufficiency by increasing revenues through viable income-generating projects, external funding, enrollment growth, and efficient resource utilization.



6. Sustained Quality Research and Extension Services

WPU aims to strengthen its leadership in research and extension by sustaining productivity, expanding technology transfer, increasing IP registrations, and enhancing stakeholder-driven programs.

As per BOR Resolution No. 864, Series of 2023





WESTERN PHILIPPINES UNIVERSITY

A STRONG PARTNER FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Mission

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Vision

The leading university for holistic human development in Western Philippines and beyond.



National University for Agriculture and a Center of Excellence in Fisheries



Sole winner of the Global Health Focus's Top-Performing MIMAROPA Universities in Research Production in 2024



Pro Patria Award and Ramon Magsaysay Award for Extension



3-time awardee of MIMAROPA's Regional Best PESO.



First Internationally ranked MIMAROPA SUC in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings

About WPU



Established in 1910

(as a Farm Settlement School for the Tagbanuas)



13, 555 students (AY 2024-2025)



2,000+ graduates yearly

Programs Offered

AACCUP Accredited | CHED COPC Accredited
ISO 9001:2015 Certified (University-wide)



ISO 9001:2015
CERTIFIED QUALITY
MANAGEMENT SYSTEM



Agriculture and environmental sciences; fisheries and aquatic sciences; engineering and information systems; social work and education; public administration and business; and criminology

8 Campuses

(Across Palawan)



Tri-fold Functions of WPU



Instruction



Research



Extension

Core Values



Excellence

We excel in the performance of our duties to achieve quality results.



Commitment

We commit our talents and abilities for the general welfare of the University.



Creativity

We innovate for the development of the University and its stakeholders.



Teamwork

We promote team approach at all times to achieve common goals.

Contact Us



pres.office@wpu.edu.ph



+639998812033



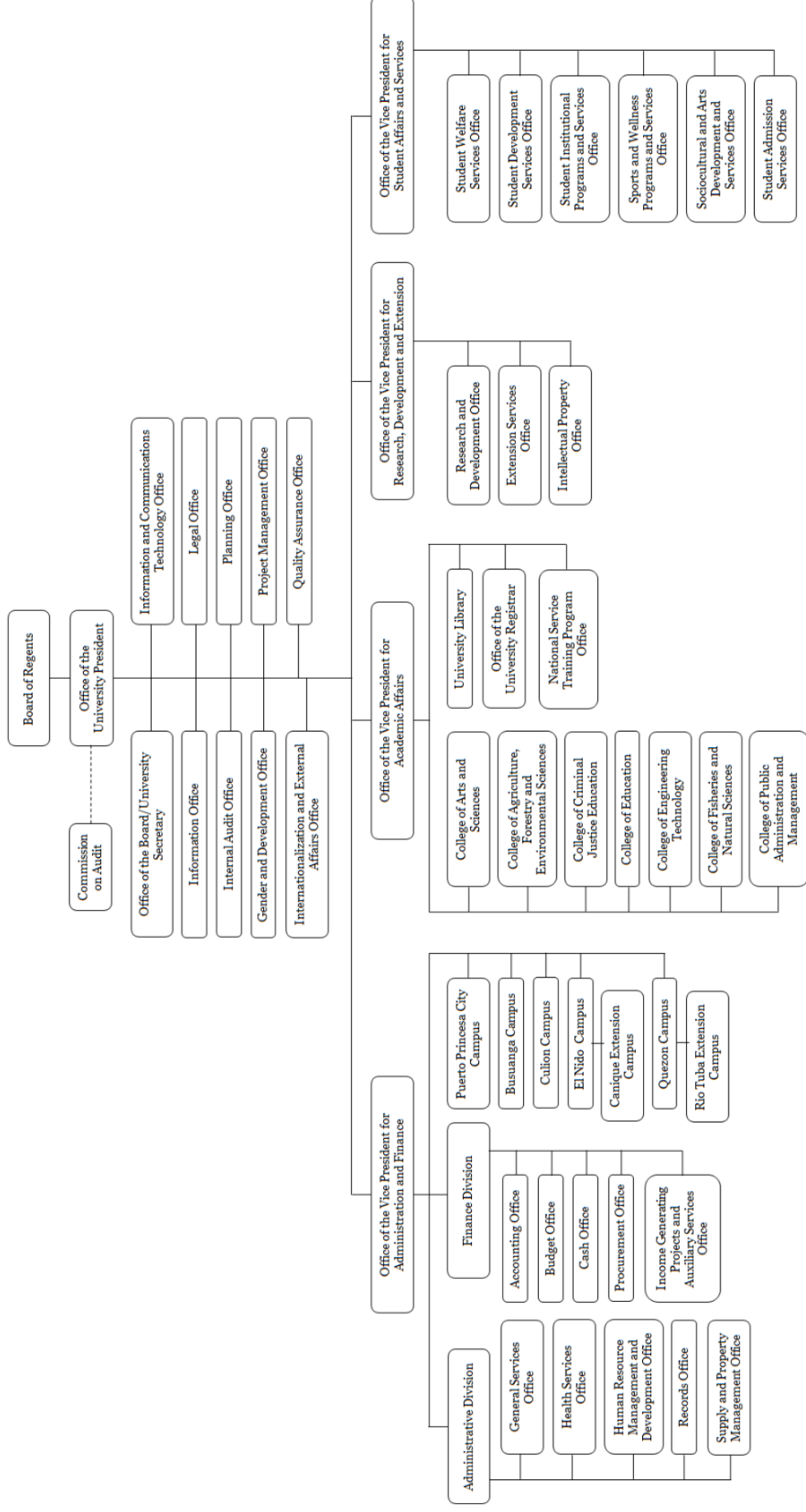
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ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



Approved as per BOR Resolution No. 36 series of 2024



FOCUSED YET FLEXIBLE INSTRUCTION

Western Philippine University
OFFICIAL TRANSCRIPT OF RECORD

Name: SARAHIN, JESSIE LYN WILSON
Address: [illegible]
Date of Birth: [illegible]
Place of Birth: [illegible]

Course: [illegible]
Grade: [illegible]

COLLEGE RECORDS

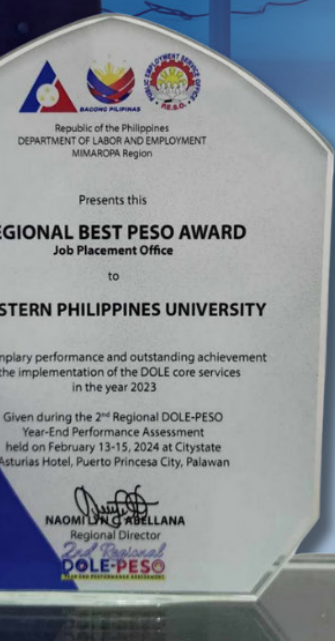
Course	Grade	Grade Point Average
1st Year, 1st Semester	1.00	1.00
1st Year, 2nd Semester	1.00	1.00
2nd Year, 1st Semester	1.00	1.00
2nd Year, 2nd Semester	1.00	1.00
3rd Year, 1st Semester	1.00	1.00
3rd Year, 2nd Semester	1.00	1.00
4th Year, 1st Semester	1.00	1.00
4th Year, 2nd Semester	1.00	1.00

Overall Grade Point Average: 1.00

Remarks: [illegible]



We envisioned a WPU that delivers Focused Yet Flexible Instruction — a university where students are nurtured to become confident, research-oriented, globally competitive, employable, and entrepreneurial — individuals with the capacity not only to gain employment but to create opportunities for others. This transformative vision is grounded in the university's commitment to two strategic directions: Strategic Direction #1: Globally Competitive Graduates, the endeavor of producing graduates equipped with 21st-century skills and global readiness; and Strategic Direction #2: Quality Assurance Certified University, the pursuit of becoming a university, certified to be meeting and exceeding national and international standards for excellence in instruction, research, extension, and institutional services.



WPU Quality Assured through 100% CHED COPCs on Licensure Programs, 93.18% AACCUP-accreditation, and University-Wide ISO Certification



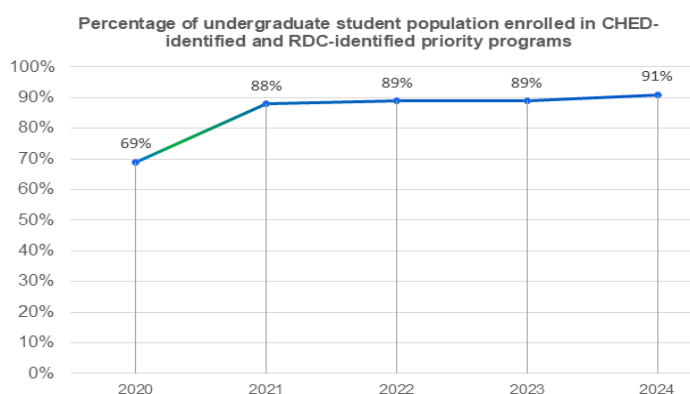
Fast Facts: Quality Assurance

- 91%** Enrollment in CHED and RDC Priority Programs
- 97%** Undergraduate Programs with AACCUP Accreditation
- 100%** Programs with Licensure Exams have COPCs
- ISO 9001:2015** Certified for Instruction, Research, Extension, and Support Services Across All 8 Campuses

By continuously enhancing its program offerings while staying rooted in its strengths, WPU reinforces its role as a university of choice for students who seek quality education. To start, WPU rationalized its program offerings according to regional and national priorities. First, this is by beginning the phase-down of programs without CHED COPCs or that are not part of the CHED or RDC identified priority programs.

Apart from phasing-down programs, WPU also expanded its academic portfolio to meet the growing demands of the digital economy by launching a pioneering program: the Bachelor of Science in Information Systems as approved by the Board through Resolution Number 29, series of 2024. This new offering reflects the University's commitment to staying current and future-ready. With this rationalization, 91% of WPU's current student population is enrolled in CHED- and RDC-identified priority programs, marking an increase from 89% in 2023

(Please refer to Annex A for the matrix of academic programs offered in 2024, including COPC and accreditation status).

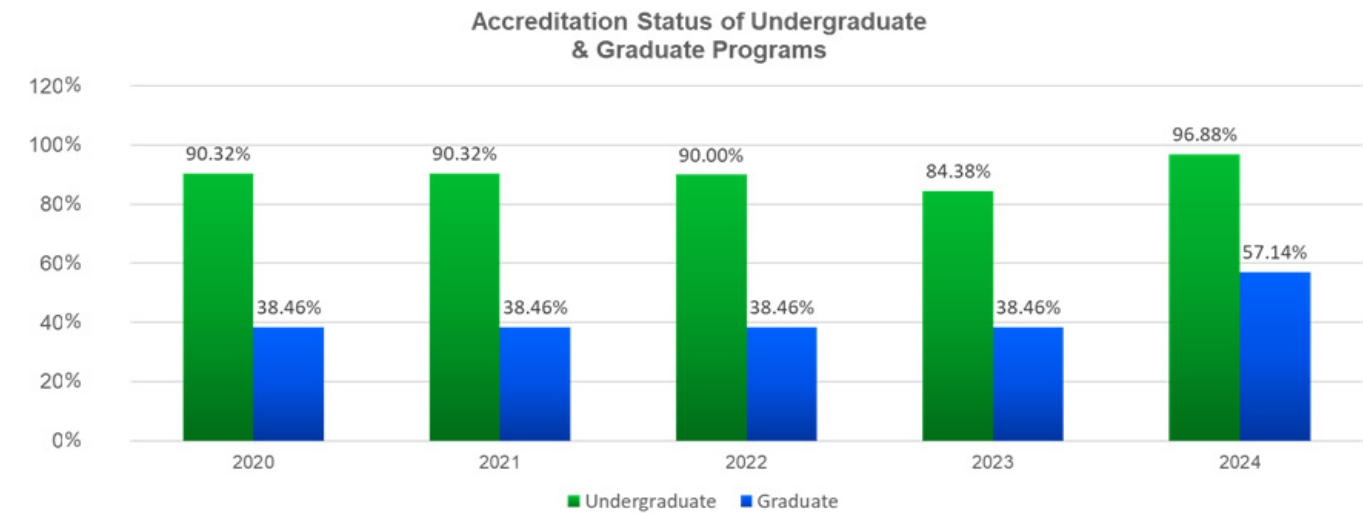


The pioneering batch of BSIS program utilizing the University's brand new computers.

The University being one who is mindful of the importance of each of these remaining and new programs offered this year, WPU shifted into high gear in having these programs accredited according to local and national standards. In 2024, WPU successfully had a whopping 18 of its academic programs accredited and re-accredited by the Accrediting Agency of Chartered Colleges and Universities in the Philippines

(AACCUP), with 41 programs being accredited to higher accreditation levels.

This resulted in a rise in undergraduate programs with AACCUP accreditation from 84% to 97%, now with only three programs with pending accreditation; and a rise from 38% to 57% for graduate programs



Western Philippines University proudly celebrates the successful accreditation and re-accreditation of its academic programs during the AACCUP Survey Visit held on October 7-11, 2024.

In addition to its accreditation achievements, WPU also guarantees that 100% of its programs with Licensure Exams have secured Certificate of Program Compliance from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED COPC). This ensures that graduates of these programs are fully qualified and eligible to take their respective licensure examinations upon graduation. For all of its undergraduate programs, 90.24% have secured their CHED COPCs, with the remaining 4 programs being processed for COPC by next year.

Another significant milestone in quality service delivery is WPU's achievement of its University-wide ISO 9001:2015 Certification by ACS W3 Solutionz. This internationally recognized accreditation affirms that WPU has established and implemented a robust quality management system encompassing all core functions—Instruction, Research, Extension, and Support Services—across all its campuses. Notably, this marks the first time WPU has secured ISO certification at the institutional level, representing a major leap forward in organizational development and academic quality assurance.

More than a compliance achievement, it translates to tangible improvement in overall service delivery. With ISO standards in place, university processes are now more systematic, transparent, and responsive. Clients benefit from clearly defined workflows resulting in faster transactions, better resource access, and consistent service quality. Moreover, the certification instills a culture of continuous improvement. Through regular internal audits, monitoring, and feedback mechanisms, WPU can now more effectively identify service gaps and respond proactively to students' needs. This means that both academic instruction and support services are continuously evolving based on data and performance metrics, ensuring relevance and excellence.



Western Philippines University (WPU) has officially earned its ISO 9001:2015 Certification, recognizing its commitment to excellence in Instruction, Research, Extension, and Support Services across all of its campuses.

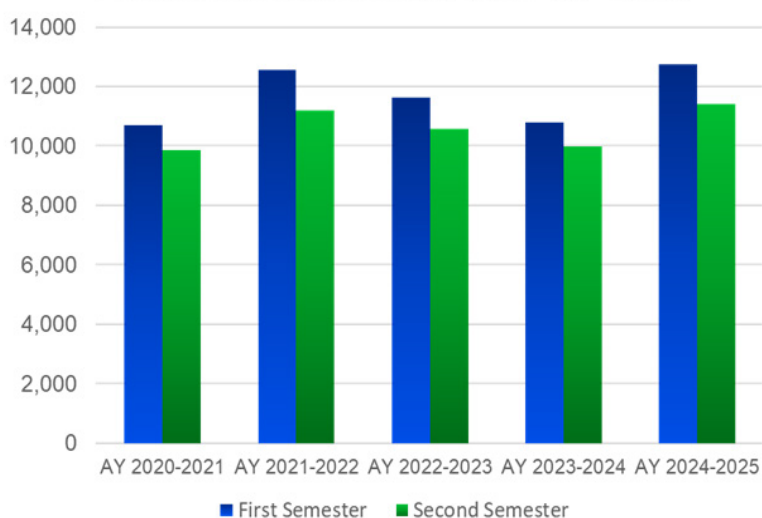
WPU Answers Call of Sangguniang Panlalawigan: Increases Quantity of Students while Maintaining and Improving Quality of Education

With quality of education assured in the accreditations mentioned, this year, WPU also endeavored to bring that quality to a greater quantity: in response to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan ng Palawan's call to grant more of Palawan's youth the opportunity to avail Free Higher Education, WPU answered. For the Academic Year 2024–2025, the university accepted additional freshmen, increasing the total student population from 10,779 to 12,753. This increase reflects the University's continued commitment to inclusive education and is a direct result of the government's sustained support for the Free Higher Education program.



Dr. Amabel S. Liao, University President of Western Philippines University, attends the Sangguniang Panlalawigan session on March 12, 2024 and speaks during the Privilege Hour to present WPU's key initiatives and reaffirm the university's commitment to the Province of Palawan's call for collaborative and inclusive development.

Enrolment Data for the Last Five Years



The administration, together with faculty and staff, demonstrated exceptional commitment and solidarity in managing the challenges of this increase in student population. Ultimately, the University stands firm in its belief that the opportunity to educate 2,000 more Palaweno youth - ones that may not be able to go to college at all without Free Higher Education - is a cause well worth the effort. WPU ensures that no qualified student is left behind.



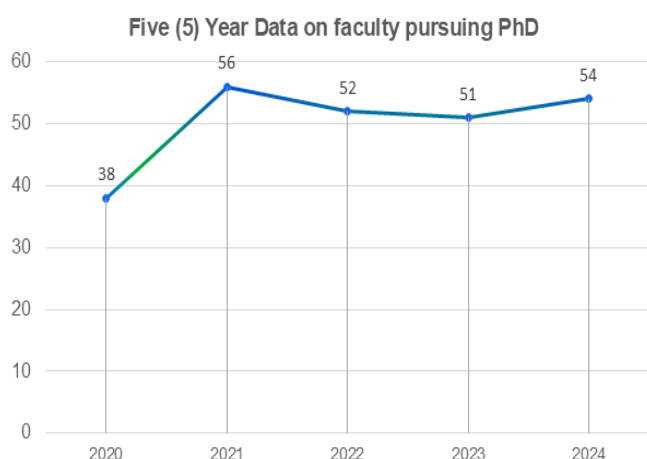
WPU warmly welcomes its new students during the Freshies' Welcome and Orientation Program, marking the start of their academic journey

Concretely, WPU adjusted to the increase in students by also increasing the faculty. In 2024, faculty with plantilla positions increased by 5%. And as with the students, the increase in quantity was met with quality. This year, two new offices were created to support faculty in continually developing, and to ensure that their delivery of instruction is up to standards. First, the Faculty and Staff Development Office (FSDO) was created to give faculty and staff focused and intentional support in their personal and career development. With focused coaching sessions, scholarship grants, and a seminar-workshop on how to work towards promotion through DBM-CHED JC 03, s. 2022, the FSDO was instrumental in the increase of faculty pursuing their doctorates (from 51 to 54) and in an increase of filled plantilla faculty positions (from 85.05% to 89.70% filled), and a mass promotion of 80 faculty members through compliance in DBM-CHED JC 03, s. 2022.

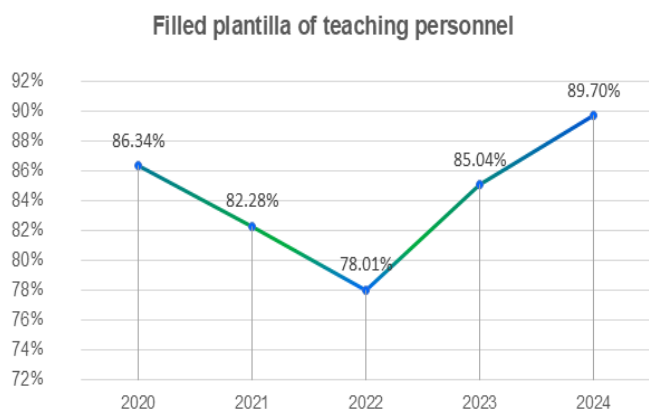
(See Annex B for full Faculty Profile)



WPU welcomes fresh ideas and shared goals as university leaders set the tone for a year of collaboration and excellence during the General Faculty and Staff Conference on August 5, 2024.



The second newly established office geared towards improving quality of instruction is the Curriculum and Instruction Office, a unit tasked with observing and assessing teaching delivery across the university. This office supports the centralized and data-driven revision of programs and curricula, helping harmonize all academic offerings while ensuring alignment with institutional mandates, local needs, and national development priorities.



WPU Establishes VP for Student Affairs and Services Office, Increase Scholarship slots by 2000 Slots, Gives Free Dorm Slots to Top 10 Students in Palawan High Schools



WPU's University Dorm Service offers students a safe, supportive, and accessible home on campus—designed to foster learning, community, and personal growth.

WPU assures the delivery of quality curricular education that meets national and international standards and answers regional and national priorities. But beyond curricular education, WPU envisions itself to be “The leading university for holistic human development in Western Philippines and beyond.” Thus, WPU continually strived and accomplished in the realm of holistic development beyond the curricular.

First, this is by finally establishing the Office of the Vice President for Student Affairs and Services (OVP SAS), based on CHED Memorandum Order No. 9, series of 2013 and approved by the Board through Resolution Number 924, series of 2023. This ensures focused attention on support services relevant to student life such as admissions, scholarships, physical and mental health services, student organizations, and even job placement after graduation.

As a landmark achievement of the SAS Division, and in large part due to the support of the CHED Office of Student Development Services, recipients of institutional support programs such as scholarships and grants increased by almost 2000 recipients, bringing our scholarship recipients from around 536 to now a whopping 2621.

One of these scholarships is the WPU Merit Based Scholarship, where the Top 10 Graduates of all public high schools in Palawan are entitled to free dormitory slots and a monthly stipend from admissions to graduation (Please refer to Annex C for the list of Scholarship Programs and Number of Scholars per Program)



In another hallmark of student support services, the University Library also launched a Netbook Loaning Service to assist students who do not have access to personal educational devices. This initiative ensures that all students are equipped with the necessary tools to fully participate in their academic work and succeed in their studies.

The University Library rolls out its Netbook Loaning Service, an initiative aimed at bridging the digital gap and empowering students with the tools they need.

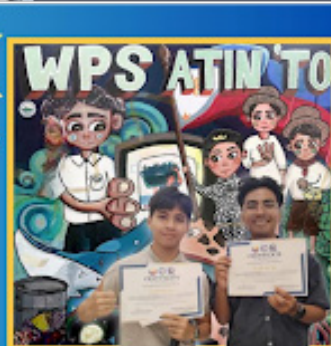
And in a program funded by the first family in cooperation with the Office of the University President, a weekly feeding program called Kaen Tami: Kada Lunes et Kadadalman. Providing free nutritious meals every Monday morning, the program aimed to help students start their week right and augment their living expenses one meal at a time.



Dr. Amabel S. Liao engages with a student availing the free breakfast at Kaen Tami, while other students enjoy their hot, nourishing meals.

WPU Exposes Students to Holistic Development Experiences, Bags Numerous Achievements

WPU also exposed its students to endeavors that develop various core facets of a holistic and upstanding global citizen such as student conferences, contests, training, and seminars. With ample student support, students' participation in these endeavors resulted in numerous achievements.



WPU Boosts Internationalization Efforts, Becomes First Internationally Ranked MIMAROPA SUC in THE Impact Rankings

With all of these efforts to ensure quality assurance, improve the quality of education, and improve support for holistic development locally, the university is being recognized in the international scene. We have become the institution of choice for various linkages and have made history in MIMAROPA's international rankings. Recognizing that internationalization is more than just a global initiative — it is a strategic investment that benefits not only the institution but also empowers faculty, staff, and students to succeed in an increasingly inter-

connected world - WPU is intensifying its efforts to enhance its global presence and competitiveness. This effort began with strategic planning and workshop sessions. Particularly, in a workshop with CHED-MIMAROPA, WPU participated in a comprehensive presentation on the application processes for the THE Impact Rankings, providing participants with valuable insights and practical guidance on navigating the ranking system, thereby empowering WPU to effectively showcase its strengths and achievements on the global stage.



WPU strengthens its global vision through two key events on June 11 and September 11, 2024, focused on strategic internationalization and world university rankings.

This and all other internationalization efforts returned dividends, making history in MIMAROPA, as WPU become the first internationally ranked MIMAROPA SUC in the Times Higher Education Impact Rankings, being ranked as 1501+. Due to this achievement, CHED recognized WPU as a Internationalization Champion of Nation-Building and Sustainability in the CHED ICONS Awards 2024.



WPU receives the ICONS Awards 2024—Internationalization Champions of Nation-Building and Sustainability—at the Philippine International Convention Center on December 16, 2024, honoring its commitment to global excellence and sustainable development.

In 2024, WPU also strengthened its global partnerships by establishing Memoranda of Understanding with 13 esteemed local institutions such as the Commission on Population and Development, Commission on Human Rights, University of the Philippines Los Baños, and the University of the Philippines Diliman Science Research Foundation (DSRF); and 8 international institutions: National Kaohsiung University of Science and Technology (NKUST) in Taiwan, and Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP) and Southeast Asia Network for Engineering, Research,



and Global Sustainable Development Goals (SEANERGY) in Malaysia, Universitas Ahmad Dahlan (UAD), in Indonesia, University of Technology Sydney in Australia, Classmate Co., Ltd. in Japan, the Institution for Educational Research and Publication (IFERP), and the

WPU also engaged in various internationalization activities such as collaboration workshops, sharing of best practices, student mobility activities, international conferences, and online cultural exchange programs.



WPU strengthens international partnerships through the MOU signing with National Kaohsiung University of Science and Technology (NKUST) on August 19, 2024, and active participation in the UTP-CHED HEIs Collaboration Workshop held at Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS (UTP), Malaysia.



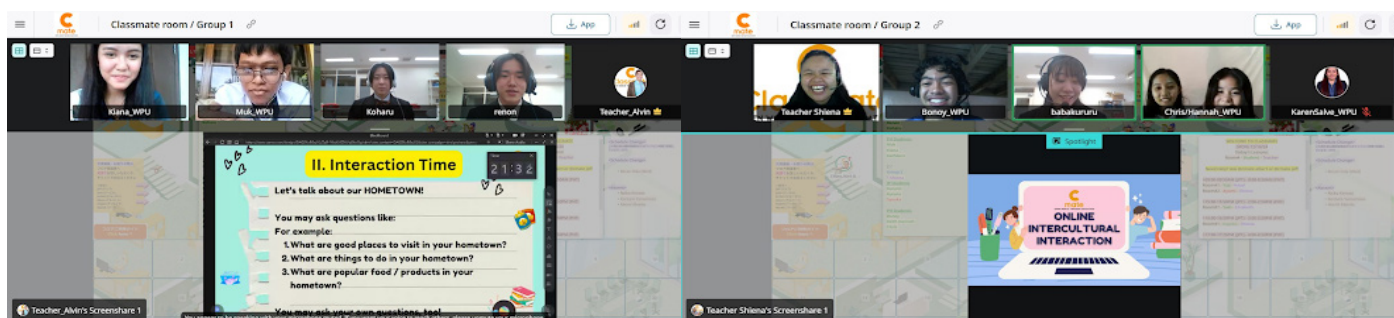
Mr. Ardie G. Pinzon, Chairperson of the Social Work Department under the College of Arts and Sciences, served as a speaker at Universiti Teknologi PETRONAS, Malaysia from July 24–27, 2024



WPU students continue to shine globally! Ms. Avien Ynna M. Hasan joins the TEEP Internship from May 9 to October 25, 2024, while Mr. Justin Yayon represents the university at the 2024 AAACU-UGM Student Enrichment Program from July 21 to August 3, 2024—showcasing WPU's growing international footprint.

Mr. Ardie Pinzon, IEAO focal person and head of the Social Work Department, also paid a visit to UTP to present the Social Work Department's best practices. This engagement opened opportunities for inbound student mobility, with students from UTP scheduled to undertake a special project at Green Island, Roxas, Palawan next year. This strategic initiative aligns with WPU's commitment to global career development, which opens

doors and supports student mobility abroad, providing opportunities for global exposure and skill development. For instance, WPU recently sent one master's student to participate in the Taiwan Experience Education Program (TEEP) internship and another to the AAACU Student Enrichment Program in Indonesia, empowering them with valuable international experience and new perspectives.



Additionally, the office facilitated a meaningful cultural exchange by hosting an online intercultural interaction between Filipino and Japanese students via Classmate Co. Ltd Japan, celebrating cultural diversity, enhancing global understanding, and fostering lifelong friendships between the students.



In pursuit of its internationalization (IZN) goals, WPU has actively participated in symposiums such as the UMAP Convention, which serves as a platform to advance opportunities for both student and faculty mobility. Similarly, Dr. Maria Mojena G. Plasus represented the university in the UNIIC Demo Day in Indonesia as she shared valuable insights and built connections that underscore the university's commitment to innovation and global engagement.

All of these meaningful local and international linkages and co-operation etches WPU's place in the international scene as a strong international partner for sustainable development.

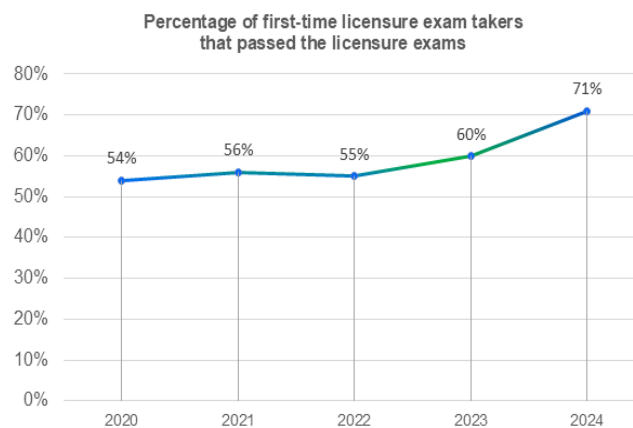
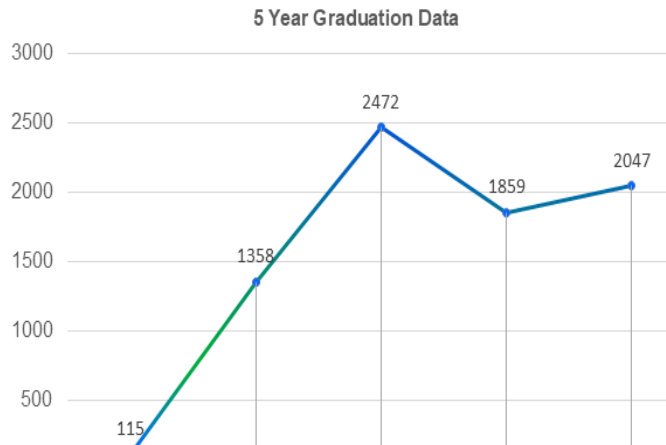
WPU Produces 2,047 Employable Graduates, Wins Regional Awards for Job Placement, Pioneers Awarding of Diplomas and TORs On-the-Spot During Graduation



With this strong focus in curricular and non-curricular education, WPU was able to produce quality graduates with exemplary licensure exam performances. Overall, WPU produced 2,047 graduates, an increase from last year's 1,859; and 999 licensed professionals, from last year's 676.

Among all applicable licensure examinations, 71% of first-time takers successfully passed, significantly surpassing the University's internal target of 53% and a significant rise from last year's 59.8%. The University also produced two licensure exam topnotchers this year: Mr. Raffy Jay D. Oncepido ranked 1st in MIMAROPA and also placed 10th nationwide in the July–August 2024 Criminologist Licensure Examination, earning an average score of 89.10%. Similarly, Ms. Donnalyn P. Dalumpines secured the 10th spot nationally in the September 2024 Licensure Examination for Social Workers, with an average of 85.20%.

Besides Licensure Exam performances, one of the most significant measures of the competitiveness of graduates is their employability. While the employability rate of our graduates in the last 2 years is significant at 78.8%, a large part of the deficit is because many of our graduates do not respond to our Graduate Tracer Studies, forcing us to consider them as “unemployed” in our data. To boost responses to our Graduate Tracers, two solutions have already been put into place.



First, this year, we created the Office of Alumni Affairs, which ensures that our endeavors with Alumni such as the Graduate Tracer Studies, are done with focused and intentional attention.

Second, as a project of one of our faculty who underwent the Public Management Development Program with the Development Academy of the Philippines, the CBOS or the Career Bridge Online System was piloted. This System serves as a one stop shop not only for the Graduate Tracer Study, but also as a means to bridge our graduates to potential employers and help them gain appropriate employment. The Application even provides free Mock Licensure Examination modules for graduates who are about to take licensure exams.

Due to these and many other efforts in bridging graduates to employment, our University and its Public Employment Service Officer received multiple awards from DOLE, including the Regional

Best PESO Award, an award that WPU has won for the 3rd time in a row. With this, WPU is the official nominee of MIMAROPA for the National DOLE-PESO Awards, further affirming its commitment to empowering graduates and bridging them to meaningful employment opportunities.





PHOTO COURTESY OF JADE RODRIGUEZ CABALO BAGUMA

LOOK

WPU issues TOR, diploma to graduates right through 54th commencement exercises

by Joseph Servano/ Yuan Kirsten Ynciang

The Western Philippines University (WPU) held its 54th Commencement Exercises on June 18, 2024, at the Edward S. Hagedorn Coliseum, Puerto Princesa City, Palawan.

In a turn of events, both the Transcript of Records (TOR) and diplomas were provided to the graduates during the commencement exercises—an unusual gesture by the university.

Another effort from the University that may aid employability, at the end of Academic Year 2023-2024, WPU pioneeringly awarded graduates with their diplomas and Transcripts of Records on the spot during their Graduation Ceremony—an initiative that stands out as one of the first of its kind in Palawan, and perhaps even the nation. This groundbreaking move enables graduates to immediately pursue employment, further studies, or entrepreneurial ventures, fully equipped with the official credentials they need to take their next steps without delay.



WPU stands as a true example of EXCELLENCE. With its strong commitment to providing focused and flexible education, WPU ensures that students receive the support and opportunities they need to become globally competitive graduates. Through quality programs, responsive services, and its status as a quality assurance-certified University, WPU continues to lead as a student-centered University dedicated to academic and institutional excellence.

Nestled in the heart of WPU Main Campus in Aborlan, the University's vibrant fields reflect its identity as the National University for Agriculture—where learning is rooted in the land and growth is cultivated through hands-on experience.





ROBUST RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT, ENGAGING EXTENSION SERVICES





R&D

We envisioned a WPU with Robust Research and Development and Engaging Extension Services envisioning research that is forward-thinking, responsive, and transformative. Anchored in the university's Research Thrusts and Priorities, research and development initiatives together with extension services seamlessly align with WPU's Strategic Direction #6: Sustained Quality Research and Extension Services. This focus reinforces institutional excellence while driving meaningful social impact. At its core, robust research development at WPU prioritizes the generation of original, solution-oriented knowledge to address critical issues such as food security, climate resilience, indigenous knowledge systems, and appropriate technology.



WPU-RDE Thrusts and Priorities (2023-2028)

Biodiversity Management and Conservation	Climate Change Adaptation and Risk Reduction Program	Poverty Reduction and People Empowerment	Cultural Identity, Diversity and Tourism	Governance	Development Education
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Genetic and gene banking Systematics and taxonomy Resource management and enhancement Landscape and seascape analysis thru Remote sensing and Geospatial analysis Terrestrial carbon measurements Agri/forestry/ecotourism and services Solid waste management Non-timber forest products enterprise and development Indigenous knowledge systems studies Timber production & enterprise development 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Green technology and generation adaptation Environmental impact assessment studies Disaster risk reduction and management Gender environment and climate change Policy studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Functional and organic production Fisheries and aquaculture management Socio-economic studies Health and well-being related studies Gender development Post-harvest value adding Entrepreneurship Education Innovation and technology transfer 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Socio-cultural heritage conservation and promotion Filipino cultural values community resiliency & psycho-social development Tourism related studies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Political government intervention/initiatives Knowledge-based policy making and analysis Peace and order, and public safety Gender-responsive governance Environmental governance LGU Governance Crime Prevention and Law Enforcement Police Community Relations Contemporary Issues in the Philippine Criminal Justice System Leadership Management 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Curriculum review and development Assessment studies (proficiency, training needs, student performance, attitude and behavior, diagnostic and tracer studies) Sports, Culture and the Arts Educational Leadership and Management Action Research (health and wellness, teaching strategies/pedagogy, student attitude/behavior) GAD Development studies Flexible Learning Systems Instructional material development



Fast Facts: Research Production

42

Research Projects Completed

10

Researches Presented Locally

20

Researches Presented Internationally

32

Researches Published

18

Researches Published in Scopus Indexed Journals

WPU's Prolific International-Quality Research Earns Sole MIMAROPA Winner of Global Award, 3 International Indexations of University's Journal

This year, WPU proved to be at the forefront of prolific production of international-quality research. The University was awarded as the sole winner of the Top-Performing MIMAROPA Universities in Research Production in 2024 by Global Health Focus for being the only MIMAROPA SUC with publications in scopus-indexed researches, one of the highest marks of international-quality research.

Our own publication journal itself, The Palawan Scientist, is steadily gaining acclaim as a publisher of international-quality research. Publishing its Issues 1 and 2 in its 16th volume, The Palawan Scientist gained three additional indexations in 2024—EBSCO, Crossref, and Scilit—broadening its reach and ensuring wider accessibility for researchers and readers worldwide.



Both of these achievements are testament to WPU being the home of prolific, international-quality research in the region of MIMAROPA. This much is also apparent in WPU's research production this year.

CHED MIMAROPA Dir. Edna Imelda F. Legazpi and DOST MIMAROPA Dir. Ma. Josefina P. Abilay receive the latest copies of The Palawan Scientist.

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Aborlan, Palawan
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Fast Facts: Research Funding

118M

External Funding Secured for Research

5M

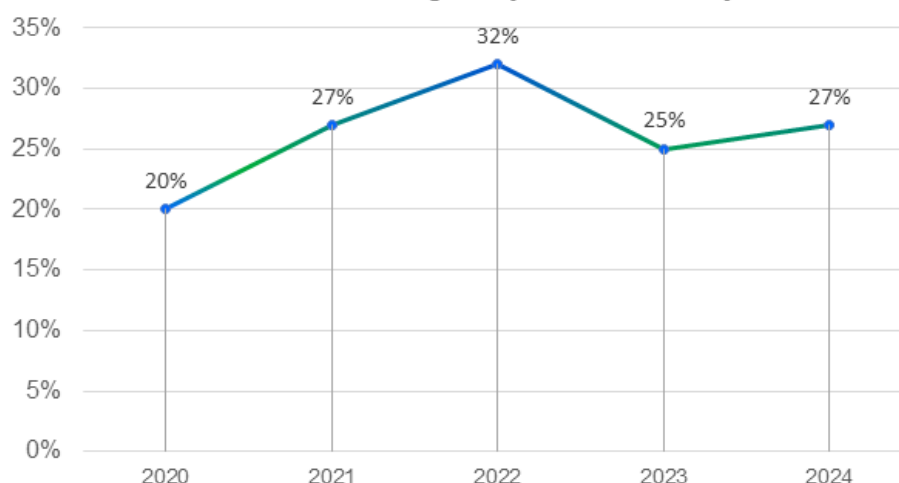
Internal Funding Allotted for Research and Extension

**Positive
AOM**

Received for Exceeding Compliance to Mandated Budget Allotment for Research and Extension pursuant to CMO No. 20 series of 2011

In 2024, a total of 42 research projects were completed across various disciplines, reflecting the university's commitment to producing relevant and high-quality outputs. In addition, 20 studies were presented internationally in academic conferences, 10 were presented locally, and 32 research outputs were successfully published, 18 of these published in Scopus-indexed journals. Twenty-seven percent of these published works appeared in internationally refereed or CHED-recognized journals such as Journal of Applied Ecology, Springer Proceedings in Physics, Indonesian Journal of Marine Sciences, and Psychology and Education: A Multidisciplinary Journal, among others, exceeding the university's target of 19%. (See Annex D for List of Research Projects Completed, Presented, and Published)

Percentage of research outputs published in internationally-refereed or CHED recognized journal within the year



WPU Receives Rare Positive AOM for Research and Extension Budget Allotment, Secures 118M External Funding for Research

The prolific research production is a combination of research done by faculty on official time, faculty dissertations as supported by the University through Study Leaves and Scholarships, and University-led research projects that are internally funded by the University itself, or externally funded through the trust of local and international funding institutions. In 2024, 16 internally funded research projects were continued. Of note, WPU received a rare positive Audit Observation Memorandum from the Commission on Audit per AOM 2025-011 (2024) for exceeding compliance to the mandated 10% of tuition fees that is to be allocated as budget for Re-

search and Extension, pursuant to CMO No. 20 series of 2011, after it allocates Php5,103,200.00 or 10.96% of tuition fees.

On externally funded research, by the end of 2024, WPU has secured 118.66 Million in research funding from external institutions such as CHED, the Department of Agriculture, Rio Tuba Nickel Mining Corporation, 6 different funders from DOST and internal funders



Fast Facts: Extension Activities

126

Extension Activities

26

Consistent with WPU's mandated and priority programs

79

Trainings

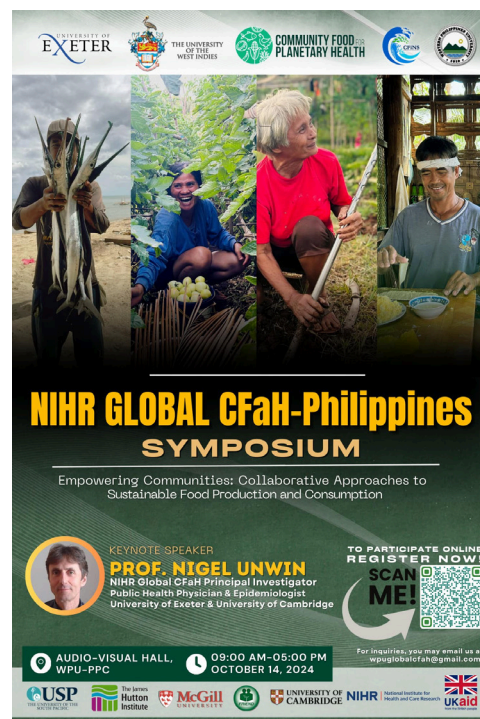
4828

Trainees

33

Active Partnerships Resulting from Extension Activities

The largest of these externally-funded projects is the Global Community Food and Health (CFaH) Program, funded by the UK's National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR). As part of a global effort to explore how local food production can improve community and planetary health, the project hosted a symposium that brought together various stakeholders from across Palawan - from farmers to government offices - fostering dialogue and collaboration on community health and food systems.



WPU Brings Research Products to Community through First IP Mall in the Country, 126 Extension Activities, Agri-Aqua Technology Business

While the production and dissemination of research is a vital measure of academic progress, WPU recognizes that its true value lies in real-world application and impact. WPU achieved this in 2024 in two ways, first, through 126 Extension Activities in 2024 alone, with 26 of these deemed consistent with WPU's mandated and priority programs in 2024 alone. Also, of these extension activities, 79 were in the form of training that benefitted 4828 trainees (exceeding the projected 4,426) and that were rated as satisfactory or higher by 99.98% of beneficiaries (exceeding the university's target of 99.50%).

More than just a number, this near-perfect score is a testament to the responsiveness, relevance, and community impact of WPU's extension services.

With these extension activities, WPU was able to establish 33 active partnerships with LGUs, industries, NGOs, NGAs, SMEs, and other stakeholders, a rise from last year's 29. These partnerships serve as the foundation for programs that are not only relevant and inclusive but also sustainable and impactful (See Annex E. for complete list of Extension Activities)



The second way that WPU endeavored to impact the lives of communities through research is by investing concerted towards utilization of WPU's research by the industry and the community. Institutional strides were made in this regard with the creation of the Technology Management and Commercialization Office (TMCO), with the aim of commercializing technologies developed by the University for use by the industry, one of its flagship projects is the creation of the Intellectual Property (IP) Mall, the first-of-its-kind in the country. Launched at the National Science and Technology Week 2024, the IP Mall serves as an innovative platform for external stakeholders including industry partners, investors, MSMEs, and government agencies to discover, interact with, and invest in university-developed innovations that address real-world needs.

Apart from the IP Mall, the TMCO also operates the Agri-Aqua Business Technology Incubator (ATBI) which focuses on technology transfer, innovation management, and the incubation of startups that are licensed to use WPU's market-ready agri-aqua technologies, thereby ensuring that research outputs are not only protected but also positioned for adoption and scaling.

With these efforts to promote utilization of research outputs, WPU achieved 100% of its targets in researches utilized by the industry or by other beneficiaries. This accomplishment is a direct result of collaborative activities across sectors, reinforcing WPU's role as a partner in regional development.



Some of the most notable trainings include a Workshop on Paraoakan Chicken Production conducted for farmers, professionals, and persons deprived of liberty (PDLs) at the Iwahig Prison and Penal Farm. This initiative aims to conserve and sustainably produce Palawan's native Paraoakan chicken breed, while creating livelihood opportunities and promoting inclusive community-based economic development.



The College of Engineering and Technology, through its "KonekTrik: Koneksyong ElecTrikal" program, led a hands-on training-workshop on 3D printing for high school students and teachers in Aborlan. The activity was supported by the university's Innovation Laboratory (InnoLab), which proudly houses state-of-the-art 3D printing machines, and aimed to spark interest in engineering, enhance technical skills, and promote grassroots innovation.






Another notable training conducted for the benefit of fisherfolk in Tumarbong, Roxas, Palawan focused on enhancing livelihood opportunities through backyard farming of climate-resilient tilapia. This initiative, under the College of Fisheries and Natural Sciences, aimed to promote sustainable aquaculture practices, boost food security, and offer an alternative source of income for coastal communities facing the impacts of climate change.



In February, the University, through the Extension Services Office, turned-over fiberglass boats to the fishermen of San Vicente and Cagayancillo, enhancing their fishing capabilities and livelihood. This initiative not only enhanced their fishing capabilities and productivity but also served as a sustainable livelihood intervention in response to the socio-economic setbacks caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and Typhoon Odette.



Moreover, the HABs (Harmful Algal Blooms) Watch Project—an initiative that raises public awareness about the causes and impacts of harmful algal blooms, commonly known as “red tide”—developed and launched an illustrated children’s book that blends scientific research with creative storytelling. This innovative outreach effort not only simplifies complex marine science concepts but also engages the imagination of future generations, fostering early awareness and encouraging active participation in environmental stewardship and sustainability.



In all its Engaging Extension Services, Western Philippines University remains guided by its conviction that real progress is measured by lives changed and communities strengthened. Whether through livelihood enhancement, environmental education, or inclusive training programs, WPU continues to stand as a strong sustainable development partner in the region. By fostering meaningful collaborations, championing innovation, and bringing science closer to the people, the University not only extends its reach, it deepens its impact.

From seed to fruit, from knowledge to practice, and from practice to progress, WPU ensures that research goes beyond discovery. It grows into something far more enduring: a tool for empowerment, a driver of sustainability, and a lasting legacy of service to communities.

Standing tall at the heart of the campus, the century-old Dita tree is a living symbol of this resilience—rooted in purpose, branching out with impact, and bearing the fruits of knowledge for generations to come.

SCALABLE PRODUCTION



VACUUM-FRIED CHICKEN ISAW

AN ENHANCEMENT TO THE CONVENTIONALLY FRIED STREET FOOD

11

FINANCIAL VIABILITY

Per kg 53.52 PHP per 100gms

30% Return of Investment

24 Years Payback Period

Chi Chow
CHICKARONG ISAW

Chi Chow is the most popular chicken recipe in the Philippines and the leading chicken recipe in the world.

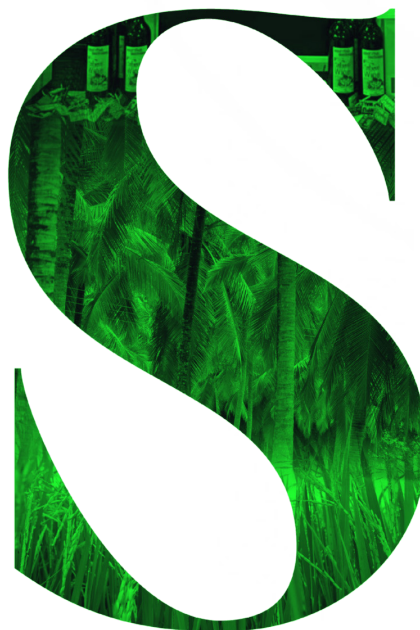
It is an improved recipe, easy, simple and delicious.

Start up cost is just 100,000 PHP



THE INVENTOR

CONTACT: 0917-12345678



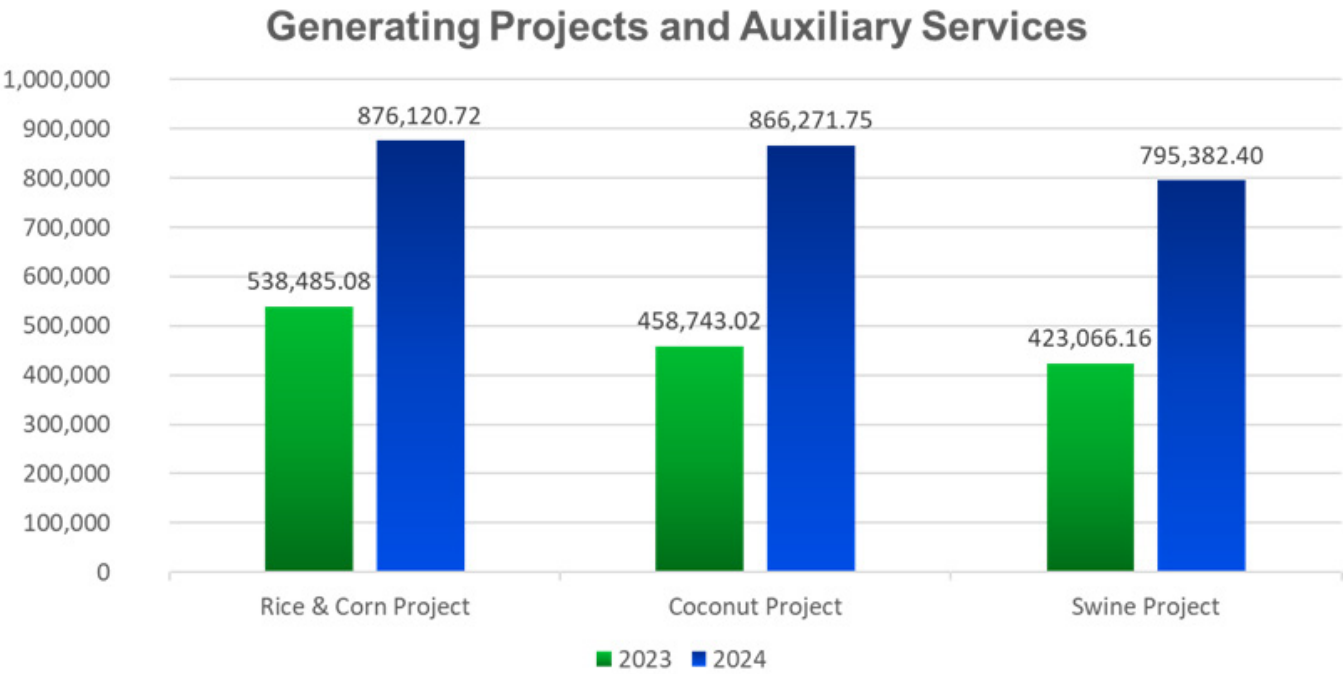
We envisioned a WPU with Scalable Production, in keeping with WPU's Strategic Direction #5: Financial Self-Sufficiency. As a University with agriculture education as a main mandate, and with approximately 476 hectares of land across its 8 campuses, WPU's Agricultural Production has the potential to serve as a model to its students and the rest of the world, demonstrating a clear message that Agriculture and its related fields are a viable earning profession - all while augmenting its own operational costs towards self-sufficiency. This year, this was achieved through 18 Income Generating Projects and Auxiliary Services, which comprised 11 Agriculture Based and 7 Non-Agriculture Based projects and services.



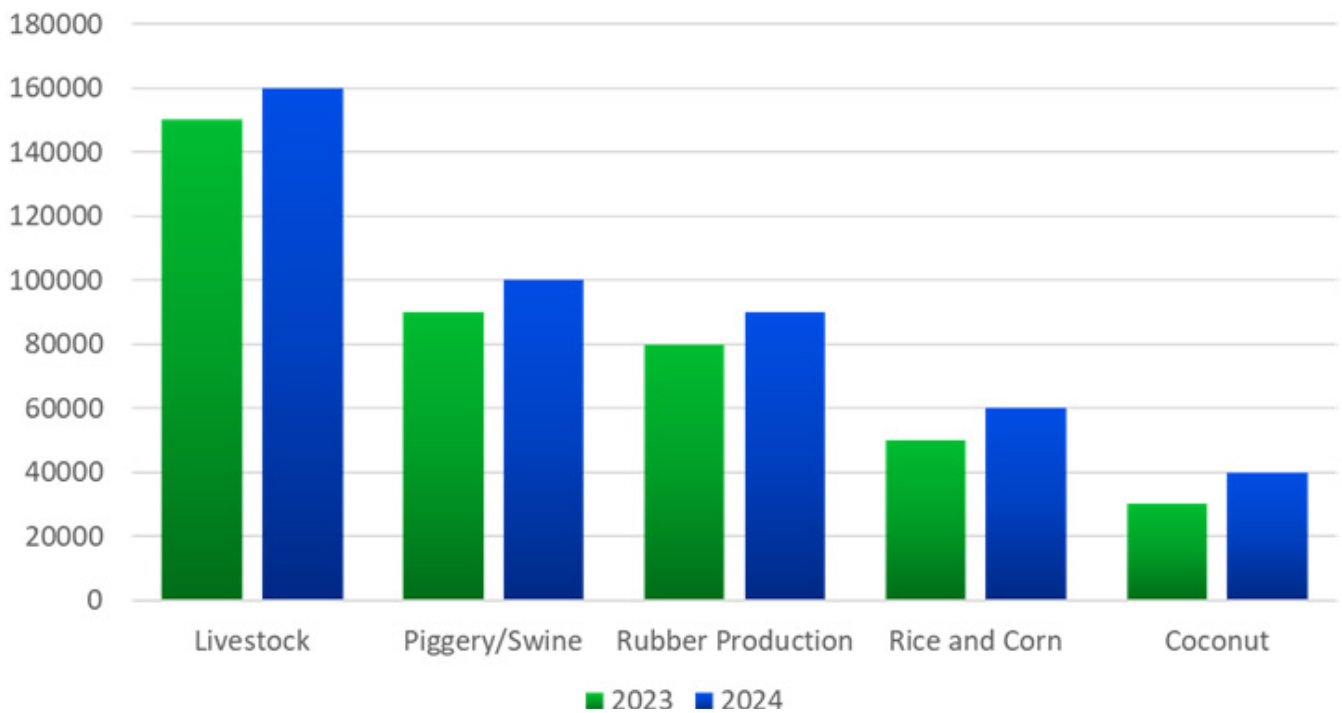
WPU Generates 7.66M Revenue, An Increase by 1.26M and 2.14% More than the University Target



Of these Income Generating Projects and Auxiliary Services, the highest revenue was generated by the Rice and Corn Project, at Php 876,120.72, a Php 337,634.92 increase from last year. This was followed by our Coconut Project at Php 866,271.75 (an increase of Php 407,528.55) and our Swine Project at Php 795,382.40 (an increase of Php 372,316.24).



Internally Generated Revenue per IGP or Auxiliary Service



Overall, WPU's Income Generating Projects and Auxiliary Services generated Php 7,666,542.40 in revenue, a whopping 20% increase from last year's Php 1,259,815.10 to its internally generated revenue. This is also 2.14% higher than the University's income targets. *With just President Liao's 1st year in Office, the promise of the upward scalability of these production endeavors is clearly demonstrated by this sizable increase in internally generated income (See Annex F for List of Income Generating Projects and Auxiliary Services)*



HOLISTIC AND ANTHROPOCENTRIC GOVERNANCE AND ADMINISTRATION

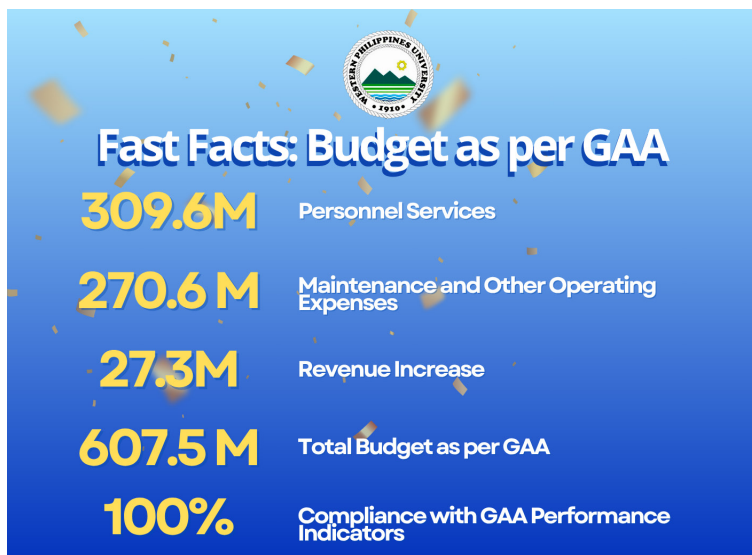




We envisioned a WPU with Holistic and Anthropocentric Governance and Administration, one that is a hallmark of effective fiscal performance, efficient public service, and people-centric management. This is in accordance with WPU's Strategic Direction #3: Strong Human Resource Profile, Strategic Direction #4: State-of-the-Art Facilities, and parts of Strategic Direction #5: Financial Self-Sufficiency.



WPU Achieves 100% Compliance with GAA Targets, 4.66 out of 5 Rating in APR, and an Early Bird Award for Being 1st Agency in MIMAROPA to Submit BFARs

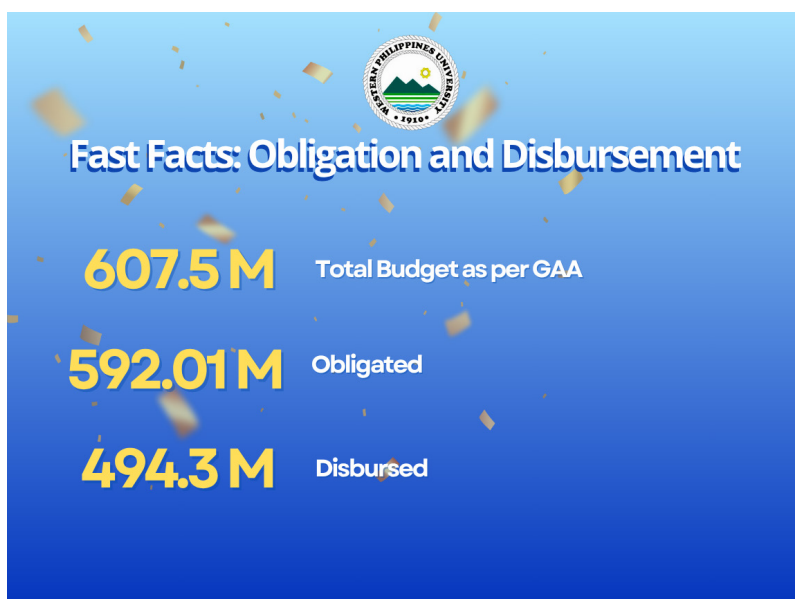


WPU aimed to enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of its fiscal performances, and to procure goods, services and infrastructure in a manner that is timely, of utmost integrity, and ensuring value for money. Achievement of these is apparent in our fiscal performances in the year 2024.

For Fiscal Year 2024, WPU achieved 100% compliance (14 out of 14) with the performance indicators and targets approved by Congress in the FY 2024 General Appropriations Act (GAA). This accomplishment reflects the university's strong performance and responsible stewardship of public resources.


Operating with a total budget of Php 607,578,802.15 (Fund 101) as per General Appropriation Act (GAA) 2024 (Personnel Services: Php 309,599,197.00; Maintenance and Other Operating Expenses (MOOE): Php 270,632,172.54; Capital Outlay (CO): Php 27,347,432.61, a total of Php 592,016,378.88 was obligated and a total of Php 494,284,373.53 was disbursed.

Overall, in the Department of Budget and Management (DBM's) Agency Performance Review of WPU, a Very Satisfactory rating of 4.66 out of 5 was achieved, with 2 of 3 criteria receiving a perfect score of 5 out of 5 (Physical Performance and Timeliness and Quality of Reports). This rating is attributed to high Obligated Budget Utilization Rate of 97.44%, an increase by 1.96% (from 95.57%); increase in Fund Utilization by 1.51% for Fund 101 (from 95.38% to 96.82%); and an increase in Fund Utilization by 4.35% for Fund 164 (from 41.86% to 43.68%); and an achievement of 102.14% Income, surpassing the University's Income Target. (See Annex G for WPU's Agency Performance Review Results)



Budget Utilization for Fund 101 (GAA for FY 2024)

Particulars	Current Year Appropriations	Actual Obligations	Disbursement	Unobligated Allotment
PS	309,599,197	303,847,084.33	299,339,371.81	5,752,112.67
MOOE	270,632,172.54	266,756,115.82	179,156,030.78	3,876,056.72
CO	27,347,432.61	21,413,178.73	15,788,970.94	5,934,253.88
Total	607,578,802.15	592,016,378.88	494,284,373.53	15,562,423.27



Fast Facts: Agency Performance Review

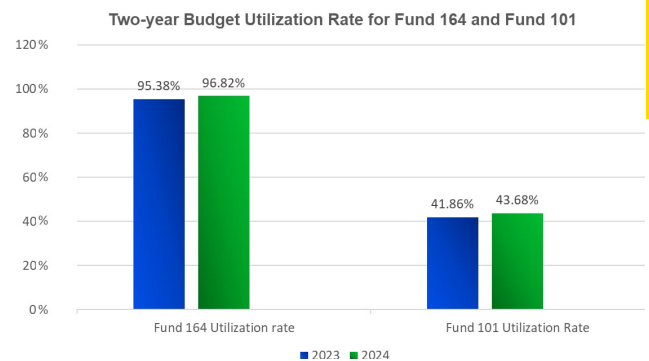
4.66 out of 5 “Very Satisfactory” Total Score

5 out of 5 “Outstanding” in Physical Performance and Timeliness and Quality of Reports

97.44% Obligated Budget Utilization Rate

102.14% Of Annual Income Target Achieved

Early Bird Award Received for Being 1st Agency in MIMAROPA to Submit 2024 BFARs



Additionally, as a demonstration of the University’s commitment to timely and efficient public service, DBM MIMAROPA awarded WPU with the Early Bird Award for being the first government agency in all of MIMAROPA to Submit the FY 2024 Budget and Financial Accountability Reports (BFARs).



WPU Moves Towards Improved Efficiency in Services: Completes 90% of Bidding for 2025; Digitizes Disbursement, Fidelity Bond Applications, and Travel Requests

In the name of prudent government procurement, WPU also engaged in Early Procurement Activities for 2025, such that 90% of Procurement Activities under Public Bidding was awarded by the end of 2024.

This not only generated 21.46% or 20,426,741.89 in procurement savings, this is set to ensure that the University's needs in 2025 shall be delivered in a timely manner and create a domino effect in the efficiency of all services, in fund utilization, and in the conduct of Early Procurement Activities for 2026, and the years to come.


In addition to strong fiscal performance, Western Philippines University (WPU) has made significant strides in modernizing its day-to-day operations and transactions. These initiatives are designed not only to enhance operational efficiency and ease of doing business but also to improve the overall welfare and work experience of our personnel. Major administrative developments include the successful launch and implementation of a homegrown Online Travel and Non-Travel Activities Request Form (TARF/NTARF) system. This innovation allows for the seamless processing of travel-related and in-campus (non-travel) activity requests, effectively

digitizing a substantial portion of the University's transactions in a system that is accessible anytime, interconnects all eight WPU campuses across Palawan, and significantly reduces processing time and administrative steps.

In May-June 2024, WPU successfully transferred its bank account from the Development Bank of the Philippines to the Land Bank of the Philippines. This move enabled the automation of financial transactions through Land Bank's online portals (eMDS and weAccess), streamlining disbursement processes and improving financial management.

In addition, the University has adopted the Bureau of the Treasury's Online Fidelity Bond System, allowing Special Collecting and Disbursing Officers to apply for fidelity bonds electronically. This innovation simplifies compliance requirements and accelerates processing time. By leveraging these digital platforms, WPU has significantly improved the timeliness, efficiency, and cost-effectiveness of its disbursement procedures. More importantly, these advancements support a more responsive and streamlined administrative system aligned with modern standards of governance and service delivery.

WPU Sees Increase in Number of Personnel, in Compensation and Benefits, and in Programs for Care and Recognition



Fast Facts: Manpower Complement

15%

Increase in Manpower Complement

271

Faculty

402

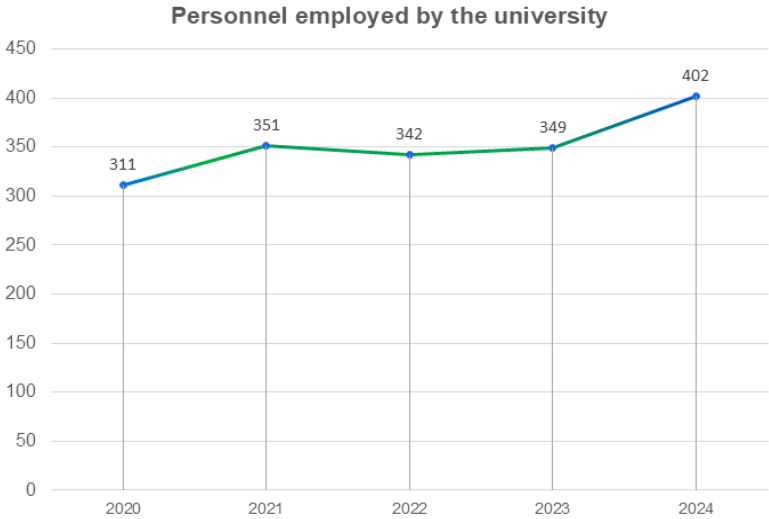
Administrative Staff

From 2019
to 2024

Increase in Salaries implemented
Starting March 2024

Salary Levels

We envisioned the administration of proactive and people-centered human resource management. Recognizing that the University's most important resource is its people; that happy people achieve more together; and that each one's success is the success of the University, WPU ensured that the University treats its 271 faculty and 402 staff well, all possible assistance to do good work is provided, that all rightful benefits and privileges are granted in full and on time, and that no one will be left behind.



First, this is by increasing the number of personnel to the maximum allowable according to the Revised Organizational Structure and Staffing Standards (ROSS) for State Universities and Colleges (SUCs), in order to distribute workload more manageably and promote a more focused and improved service delivery. With this, a total of 402 from 349 personnel were employed by the University in 2024, a 15% increase (See Annex H for Breakdown of Personnel per Office)

This increased number of personnel was met with an increased compensation and benefits, from the previous 2019 salary levels to the updated 2024 levels. These salaries and benefits were given in full and on time every time, not only through the efficient service delivery from the personnel themselves, but also by shifting the payroll and payments system to one that is online and automated through a partnership with Landbank of the Philippines.

We also sought to give the faculty and staff the appreciation, recognition, and care that they deserved. First, we adorned our faculty and staff in our new custom made uniforms from Obra ni Juan, a uniform that carries a dignified pride in our University and each and everyone's roles in its development. Not to mention, a uniform that complies with the newly released guidelines of the CSC on the use of ASEAN and Filipino inspired uniforms.

And in perhaps the biggest gesture of appreciation to the University's personnel, WPU celebrated the Civil Service Month through the Lingkod Bayani Month, which included a Faculty

and Staff Olympics, a Bonding Day, and a Recognition Night where Faculty and Staff were given awards not just for years of civil service, but also for exemplary performances and achievements that brought pride in the University.

Finally, at the end of 2024, WPU held Balik Ta Now: a Year-end Plenary Conference where the whole University Community came together to look back at the year of service together, and to look forward towards a better future for the University. After which, WPU implemented a mandatory year-end break for all faculty and staff to enjoy the holiday break and ensure work-life balance.



WPU Mainstreams GAD with 5.90% of Budget Utilized for 57 GAD Trainings, 20 Partnerships, 82 GAD Research, and 3 GAD Campaign Activities, and the First MOVE Chapter in MIMAROPA SUCs



WPU did not only demonstrate good governance in general fiscal performance; the University also ensured that this fiscal performance aligned with the national goal of gender mainstreaming, making strides towards equality and development of all genders in the University. In 2024, WPU's budget utilization for Gender and Development (GAD) surpassed the 5% minimum allotment of the agency budget as mandated by the Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710), with a 5.9% budget utilization for GAD, a total budget of Php 29,070,978.70. This utilization primarily went to the conduct of 57 GAD Seminars and Trainings, with 9 Organization-Focused seminar-trainings and 48 Client-Focused seminar-trainings.

Organization-Focused seminar-trainings targeted all levels of GAD implementers from the GAD Focal Point System, the GAD Office, University Officials, Committee on Decorum and Investigation (CODI) members, old employees, and newly hired employees. These seminar-trainings covered various topics crucial to GAD work and developing gender sensitivity such as general Gender Sensitivity Trainings (GST), use of gender fair language, trainers training on GAD, the Anti-Sexual Harassment Act of 1995 (RA 7877), the Safe Spaces Act (RA 11313), the WPU CODI Manual, proper conduct of CODI proceedings, use of Gender Analysis tools, use of the HGDG and PIMME, formulating GAD Plan and Budgets, and collection of sex and gender disaggregated data.

As for Client-Focused Seminars and Trainings, much of these were targeted towards educating students - our main clients - towards developing gender sensitive and progressive members of society. This included trainings throughout the life cycle of a student such as a seminar and IEC distribution on teenage pregnancy for high school students, Gender Sensitivity Trainings (GSTs) for First Year and Fourth Year students, and a Seminar on SOGIESC for all students. Apart from students, WPU also spread the word of GAD to our external clients in the larger community through GAD related seminar-trainings, and livelihood programs for women. A total of 36 GAD seminar-trainings were conducted to 1,212 indigenous women from our Tribal Education and Livelihood Program (TELP) Centers, and 9 Livelihood Programs were conducted with 204 women across Palawan.



As one of our main mandates, research was also mainstreamed in GAD, through the conduct of 82 GAD-related researches. The University also maintained its sex-disaggregated data for employees, students, and extension clients, which has the potential to enable further meaningful GAD research and evidenced-based, gender responsive operations of the University.

And lastly, WPU continuously conducted GAD solidarity and advocacy campaigns to promote gender equality and sensitivity in the consciousness of the public. In solidarity with the Philippine Commission on Women and in compliance with Republic Act 6949 s. 1990 and Republic Act 10398, WPU conducted a Women's Month Celebration and an 18-day Anti-VAW Campaign. Attended by a total of 2188 attendees, both campaigns were

composed of seminar-trainings for employees and students alike, as well as awareness-based competitions in various art forms that express solidarity for the call for gender equality and the end of violence against women. And in a pioneering move, WPU launches a chapter of the Men Opposed to Violence Everywhere (MOVE), the first MOVE Chapter amongst the MIMAROPA State Universities and Colleges. Truly, in WPU, all hands are on deck towards gender equality.

With a total of 5234 men and 7466 women touched by the word of GAD, and 20 partnerships formed through WPU's GAD initiatives in 2024, WPU is steadfast in doing its part to advance the equal development of the lives of all genders in the communities in the Western Philippines, from inside the University and beyond (See Annex I for the WPU GAD Accomplishment Report 2024).



Fast Facts: Infrastructure Projects

22

Prior-Years' Infrastructure Projects Pending Procurement at Start of Pres Liao's Term

13

Projects Awarded at end of 2024

9

Projects Reprogrammed for 2025

**7 out
of 29**

Ongoing Projects Completed in 2024

WPU Fasttracks 22 Prior-Years' Infrastructure Projects Pending Procurement; Awards 13 and Reprograms 9

At the start of President Liao's term, she was turned-over 22 Infrastructure Projects that have been granted a total of Php 9,488,927.36 in funding, but have experienced Procurement delays in years prior to her term. As a Government Procurement Policy Board Certified Procurement Trainor, President Liao identified procurement bottlenecks and implemented solutions that resulted in the fast tracking of crucial Infrastructure Projects in a way that remains faithful to the spirit of Republic Act 9184 or the Government Procurement Reform Act. Because of this expertise-based leadership, WPU was able to commence bidding and bid award of 13 out of 22 of these projects. Apart from endeavoring to complete the pending projects, the funding for 9 of these projects that were deemed outdated or no longer necessary after these rationalization efforts are set to be reprogrammed in 2025, so they may instead fund other more urgent or priority programs, activities, and projects. With the same expertise in the procurement responsibilities of contractors, WPU was also able to push for the completion of 7 out of 29 ongoing infrastructure projects. This includes the repair of 17 classrooms, 1 laboratory, 2 student areas, 1 audiovisual hall, 8 administrative offices, 1 canteen, 2 guard houses, 1 gate, 1 road, and 1 walkway,

across 5 of our campuses. These completion of these projects is not only a significant step towards the judicious use of public funds allotted to the University, it also echoes magnitudes in the lives of our community: in the quantity of students we are able to grant Free Higher Education to, in the quality of education and holistic development they receive, in the ease of doing business delivered by our personnel, in the comfort and safety of our campuses, and the overall experience of what it is to be in WPU (See Annex J for List of Infrastructure Projects Pending Award, Awarded, Reprogrammed, Ongoing, and Completed)

Despite all these developments, much still remains to be developed in WPU. For 2025, priority projects are the construction of facilities that are required for the achievement of CHED COPCs such as libraries and laboratories, especially for our External Campuses. This will pave the way for us to achieve 100% COPCs for our undergraduate programs, from the current 89.74%. But perhaps more importantly, this will bring state of the art facilities to far flung countrysides of Palawan, from whom most students may not be able to experience such quality of education otherwise.

For the Western Philippines University, 2024 was a year of FRESH beginnings: a combination of reaping the fruits of labor of leaders past, and strong leaps forward, towards new frontiers under new leadership.

WPU began establishing itself as a strong home for holistic education with quantity and quality that is responsive locally, pioneering regionally, and recognized globally - all by fostering (F)ocused yet Flexible Instruction.

WPU strongly rose to the forefront of prolific and international-quality research in the region, of locally impactful research, and as a budding home for innovation and commercialization - accolades gained through (R)obust Research and Development and (E)ngaging Extension Services.

WPU made strides in echoing a strong message that begins locally but spreads globally: agriculture and fisheries are sustainable keys to developmental success - a message demonstrated through efforts in (S)calable Production.

And WPU illustrated the power of expertise-driven governance, of prudent and intentional administration, and of care for the welfare and equality amongst one's people in building a strong institution with a flourishing performance in all respects - a performance made possible by (H)olistic and Anthropocentric Governance and Administration. Indeed, in WPU's 2024, the whole University stood proud and loud as a strong and FRESH partner - locally, regionally, and globally - for sustainable development. And the University promises: this is only the beginning. In 2025 and the years to come, WPU will only become FRESHer and FRESHer.

FRESH

LIST OF ANNEXES



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