



URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY STRENGTHENS SUPPORT FOR GENDER EQUALITY THROUGH WOMEN'S ACCESS AND EMPOWERMENT INITIATIVES

Urdaneta City, Philippines — In a continued effort to advance gender equality and empower women in education, **Urdaneta City University (UCU)** has launched a comprehensive memorandum outlining initiatives to promote women's access, acceptance, and participation across academic and professional pathways.

Through **Memorandum No. 3, s. 2022**, issued by the **Office of the Director for External Affairs and Linkages**, UCU reinforces its commitment to the **United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 5 (SDG 5): Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls**. The memorandum introduces several key access schemes designed to enhance women's educational experiences and career prospects, particularly in fields where they have been historically underrepresented.

Among the highlighted initiatives are:

- **Mentorship Programs for Women** – Connecting women students with experienced faculty, alumni, and professionals to guide them in their academic and career journeys.
- **Scholarships and Financial Support** – Expanding financial aid and scholarship opportunities specifically for women, with focus areas in disciplines with limited female representation.
- **Career and Personal Development Workshops** – Offering leadership, skill-building, and networking workshops led by industry experts to prepare women for professional success.
- **Access to Specialized Resources and Support Services** – Strengthening academic tutoring, counseling, and career guidance, particularly for women in STEM, Criminology, and other male-dominated fields.

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According to **Dr. Sonny Soriano**, Director for External Affairs and Linkages, these initiatives reflect the University's proactive stance in fostering an inclusive and equitable learning environment. "At UCU, we believe that empowering women through education is key to achieving lasting social progress. By ensuring equal access to opportunities and support, we are investing in a future where all learners can thrive," he said.

Through this memorandum, Urdaneta City University continues to set a strong example of institutional leadership in advancing **gender equality, diversity, and inclusion**. By aligning its policies and programs with **UN SDG 5**, UCU not only supports women's academic and career success but also contributes to building a more equitable and empowered society.

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