



## URDANETA CITY UNIVERSITY STRENGTHENS ITS COMMITMENT TO SDG 5: EMPOWERING WOMEN THROUGH ACCESS, MENTORING, AND OPPORTUNITIES

In its continuing pursuit of inclusive and equitable education, Urdaneta City University (UCU) reaffirms its strong commitment to Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 – Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls. The University recognizes that true progress is achieved when women are given equal access to education, mentorship, and leadership opportunities that allow them to reach their full potential.

As part of this commitment, UCU has developed strategic initiatives designed to support and empower women across all academic disciplines. One of its flagship programs, the Women's Mentoring Scheme, provides structured mentorship opportunities to at least 10% of the University's female student population each year. Through this program, students are paired with mentors from among UCU faculty, alumni, and professional partners who help guide them in developing confidence, leadership, and career-readiness.

Complementing this initiative, UCU also ensures that women are granted equal access to scholarships, training, and developmental provisions that address barriers to education and professional advancement. These efforts particularly focus on fields where women have been.

Through these initiatives, Urdaneta City University continues to serve as a catalyst for women's empowerment, equipping students not only with academic knowledge but also with the confidence and skills to make meaningful contributions to society. By advancing access, mentorship, and opportunity, UCU strengthens its role in creating a more inclusive and empowered community—where every woman can thrive and succeed.

**MAKE SDG#5 A REALITY**





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Urdaneta City, Philippines — Demonstrating its strong commitment to gender equality and inclusive education, Urdaneta City University (UCU) continues to champion women's empowerment through initiatives that encourage female students to pursue academic programs where they are traditionally underrepresented.

In line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 5 – Achieve Gender Equality and Empower All Women and Girls, UCU has launched a university-wide effort to support women in exploring disciplines such as criminology, engineering, information technology, and the sciences, where female participation has historically been lower. This campaign underscores UCU's dedication to promoting diversity, innovation, and equal opportunity across all fields of study.

### Promoting Gender Diversity Across Disciplines

UCU recognizes that diversity of perspectives strengthens both education and innovation. By actively encouraging women to apply to programs in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) and other emerging industries, the university aims to cultivate a more inclusive learning environment that reflects the evolving needs of society.

Dr. Sonny Soriano, UCU's Director for External Affairs and Linkages, emphasized the significance of this initiative:

"We believe that every academic field benefits from the inclusion of diverse voices. By supporting women in pursuing degrees in underrepresented disciplines, we are not only empowering individuals but also enriching the entire university community through greater balance and creativity."

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### Targeted Support for Women in Underrepresented Fields

To ensure meaningful participation, UCU has rolled out several strategic programs designed to attract, support, and retain female students in these disciplines:

- Outreach and Awareness Campaigns – UCU partners with local high schools to encourage young women to consider careers in STEM and other nontraditional fields, highlighting their potential for leadership and innovation.
- Scholarships and Financial Assistance – The university provides scholarships specifically aimed at female applicants in underrepresented programs, helping eliminate financial barriers that may hinder access.
- Mentorship and Guidance Programs – Female students are paired with mentors from among faculty members, alumnae, and industry professionals who offer guidance, career advice, and encouragement.
- Workshops and Career Fairs – UCU organizes specialized events to connect women with successful professionals and employers, promoting visibility and networking opportunities within their chosen fields.

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### Advancing a Broader Vision for Gender Equality

These initiatives form part of UCU's broader gender equity framework, which aligns with national and international standards for educational inclusivity. Through sustained action, the university strives to create an academic environment where gender diversity is celebrated and women are empowered to lead, innovate, and contribute meaningfully to their professions.

### Looking Ahead

UCU's ongoing campaign represents more than just an institutional initiative—it's a movement toward lasting change. By breaking gender barriers and supporting women in nontraditional disciplines, Urdaneta City University is paving the way for a more inclusive future in higher education. As the university continues to expand these programs, it stands as a model for other institutions committed to advancing equality and empowering women to succeed in every academic and professional arena.

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