

THE EXPERIENCE OF LYCEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES UNIVERSITY- BATANGAS IN GETTING AHEAD OF ACCREDITATION AND CERTIFICATION

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ABSTRACT

Providing quality products and services is always the ultimate goal of every educational institution making it as part of the vision and mission that proliferates from top management down to the rank and file employees of the organization. This article aims to impart the basic information about Lyceum of the Philippines University-Batangas (LPU-B) as an institutional of higher learning that hones the character of future leaders and professionals with Autonomous University Status from the Commission on Higher Education (CHED) and Center of Excellence in Hospitality Program and Center of Development in Tourism. Accreditation as quality assurance mechanism is being practiced across all degree programs with granted Institutional Accreditation as the highest award that could obtain by an institution from an accrediting body. LPU-B was also the recipient in 2012 of Philippine Quality Award (PQA) - Recognition for Commitment to Quality Management from the President of the Republic of the Philippines. LPU-B is making its way to become a recognized university in the Asia Pacific Region by 2022.

Keywords: Best University, Quality Management, Higher Education, LPU-B, CHED, PQA, QS.

INTRODUCTION

The philosophies of Dr. Jose P. Laurel are still fresh in the posthumous image on how the Lyceum of the Philippines University – Batangas (LPU-B) had become after four glorious decades. The university's commitment to serve God and country manifests in bringing innovations and further development to its state-of-the-art facilities where the scent of concrete dreams and aspirations are embedded in the building blocks of international standards in meeting the challenges of providing quality education. The LPU-B family is making new waves to become dynamic in achieving its ultimate goal before 2022 in memory of its beloved founder, Dr. Sotero H. Laurel.

The mission of the University states that:

“LPU-B, espousing the ideals of Jose P. Laurel, is dedicated to the holistic development of the individual constantly in pursuit of truth and acts with fortitude (Veritas Et Fortitudo) to serve God and country (Pro Deo Et Patria). It is committed to provide quality education and develop leaders, lifelong learners and globally competitive professionals who possess the 4C's – competence, commitment, credibility and collaboration.”

Lyceum education aims to create teaching and learning environment that would bring about desired changes in learners such as making them more knowledgeable, skilful or acquired

positive attitudes and values (Reyes, 2013). The process of education is indeed very subtle as it involves exchange of thoughts and deals that seem rather intangible (Kalhotra, 2013).

LPU-B as an autonomous university lives the way it was destined to be. Several factors honed the ideals of the university in pursuit of transforming the perspective of the society towards one direction of living excellence. Education has the duty of creating and sustaining public good; the training and education of a humane capital, and the enhancement and promotion of corporate objectives; that is, socio-communication objectives (Chang'ach, 2014). As an institution of higher learning, it is the role of LPU-B to take the challenge of sending the country to all corners of the world through giving its best resources in research, instruction and community service to the welfare of humanity.

OBJECTIVES

This article aims to provide background information of Lyceum of the Philippines University-Batangas (LPU-B) as an institution of higher learning in the Asia Pacific Region and to present its current achievements that make it in the roster of leading universities in the country.

DISCUSSION

Cultivating the research culture to become competent leaders in the academic community is one way of sustaining and empowering the research-based delivery of instruction with Outcomes-based curriculum. Research is a serious and diligent quest for knowledge (Formeloza & Pateña, 2013) where everyone is responsible in uncovering facts and creating new information that would lead to major breakthroughs. Research publication is an important criterion in order to be recognized as one of the top Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) not only in the Asia Pacific region but worldwide. The university publishes many researches in the international refereed journals and continues to present research findings in international forums and conferences. These are great avenues and opportunities to contribute in the enrichment of knowledge, skills and values of all nations.

Quality instruction is the life blood of HEIs with great credibility where outcomes-based initiatives in the process of honing the skills of the students are being introduced in the Quality Management System of the university. LPU-B has institutional learning outcomes which represent the qualities that LPU students should practice and possess as life-long learners which are anchored on the 4C's: competence, commitment, credibility and collaboration and embedded in the curriculum. The curricula are designed to prepare the graduates and demonstrate the core competencies expected of them in the workplace (Valdez, 2010). Development of an effective curriculum guide is a multi-step, on-going and cyclical process (Valdez et al, 2012). It is a crucial component of any educational process. Curriculum development and instructional management serve as effective tools for meeting the present and future needs of the local and national communities. Students are being taught the real value of competence in achieving excellence while maintaining credibility outside the boundaries of their strengths and weaknesses.

Competent learners are expected to possess the ability to express their ideas through written and oral communication proficiently in English Language; ability to demonstrate computer and IT skills to perform effectively in any work place; ability to engage in entrepreneurial activities; ability to demonstrate global skills in understanding of responsibility in environmental, local and global issues; ability to demonstrate interpersonal skills to maintain harmonious relationship with co-workers in the

multidisciplinary field of specialization; and ability to provide innovation with research skills in exploring the challenges in the community.

Credibility among students is developed when they become not only expert in the subject but when they acquire the value of trustworthiness (Reyes, 2013). Commitment to accomplish a certain task within the specified period of time must be strongly acquired by the students. They are being prepared to transform their feelings and thoughts to useful ideas and opinions (Laguador, 2013) that would lead to a greater collaboration among the members of the team or workforce in an organization. The industry-partners have very high regards in the competence of the graduates in terms of the relevance of their knowledge and skills in research and work discipline, communication skills, computer skills while entrepreneurial skills obtained the least (Laguador & Ramos, 2014).

School activities are facilitated to shape the character of future leaders and professionals of the country based on the University core values: God-centeredness, Leadership, Integrity and Nationalism. Meñez (2014) found out that Love of God, honesty, love for truth and perseverance and hard work are very relevant to the job placement of the graduates. Therefore, preparing the students to become globally competitive graduates with leadership capabilities and professional integrity would set them to boundless opportunities anywhere in the world of business. The sense of unity, fairness and nationalism would give them pride of being Filipinos who make a difference in any field of work and worthy undertakings. Lyceans have the perseverance to achieve all their dreams in the most specified time without being tired of facing new challenges, meeting with different nationalities and breaking world boundaries. Lyceans also believe above all that God never fails to listen and answer their prayers in His most appropriate manner and time (Dotong, 2014). Applying the university core values in all facets of life makes a Lycean unique among the graduates of other universities.

ACCREDITATION AND CERTIFICATION

The accreditations and certifications cannot be taken away from the religious habit and practices of LPU as part of its vital organs. The instruments used to measure the healthy condition and autonomous status of the university are provided by accrediting bodies and certifying agencies like Philippine Association of Colleges and Universities – Commission on Accreditation (PACUCOA), Investors in People (IiP), Det Norski Veritas (DNV) for ISO 9001:2008, Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) and the Philippine Quality Award (PQA).

Organizational effectiveness is measured through various quality assurance tools such as voluntary accreditation and certification of the school wide Quality Management System to ISO 9001: 2008 (Javier, 2012). LPU has been an ISO certified several years ago and still gearing towards the achievement of ultimate purpose of having Quality Management System (QMS) being implemented in all facets of the university. Students believed that the University is proficient in providing programs and had already foreseen the problems that might occur and provided contingency plan for each (Buted et al., 2014) as part of continuous improvement.

PACUCOA is visiting LPU's various programs and already bestowed different levels of accreditation with 80 percent of illegible programs are already accredited that leads to the University to be awarded the Institutional Accreditation. The College of International

Tourism and Hospitality Management (CITHM) has been connected to Dusit Thani where the students experienced the world class work environment with international curriculum and awarded granted by the Commission on Higher education with First HRM program in the Philippines to be Center of Excellence and Center of Development in Tourism Education; and most awarded HRM School in the Philippines with 39 national championships and 8 international awards. LPU-Batangas was awarded with Full Accreditation for Hotel & Restaurant Management and Tourism programs by The International Centre of Excellence in Tourism and Hospitality Education (THE-ICE). The Hospitality curriculum of LPU-B was developed to integrate an in depth academics, laboratories and field internship programs that will ensure the efficiency and quality to meet worlds class standards. The said curriculum is in line with collaboration of the LPU and Dusit International (Mejia et al., 2014).

LPU-B is also considered the Asia's First IiP-Silver Certified Organization. This is a manifestation that the administration really values the importance of satisfying its human resource, considering it as very significant bone structure of its holistic approach to management.

Aside from the tools used to measure quality, several activities were also evident that prove to the dynamic performance of LPU-B. Faculty members and students were already sent to various international tours for benchmarking visit to embrace the notable practices of well known universities in the region. Products of LPU-B were sent abroad for internship and most of its graduates were employed worldwide. The university is also encouraging foreign students to join the LPU family to experience the world class college life. Providing extensive programs for foreign exchange students and industry immersion of faculty members to multinational companies with intercontinental branches would strengthen its networks and linkages. The University is also trying its best effort to comply with the requirements of the International accreditation for Engineering and Technology and the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Ranking as one of the measures of attaining the vision of being recognized and one of the best universities in the Asia Pacific Region by 2022.

COMMUNITY EXTENSION

Community extension as one of the trifocal function of HEIs is where caring and collaboration exist. The institutions together with the different academic departments, students, faculty members and staff have been involved in providing extension service to the adapted community (Chua et al, 2014).

Curriculum must be supported by activities which are in the forms of actual experiences outside the classroom that could provide better learning and understanding of the difference between principles and practice. Students enjoy the formal schooling not only to acquire knowledge and skills but most importantly, learning must be reinforced with proper attitude and values that should be integrated in all curricula through community services (Laguador & Chavez, 2013).

LPU-B as an active partner of the residents of Barangay Wawa in Batangas City, Philippines in cleaning its shoreline wherein partnership has established camaraderie and unity among the people in the vicinity (Laguador, Mandigma & Agena, 2013). It has initiated for several years a community extension project through a costal clean-up that aims to preserve the condition

of the waters by cleaning the surrounding areas of the said community (Perez & Cabrera, 2013) as extension service of Maritime Education Programs.

The university could never be recognized as globally competitive if they would not consider the needs and welfare of the people within their boundaries. Sharing of resources to the needy and helping them achieve the quality of life would serve as one of the greatest accomplishments of LPU. The core values of the university are very evident in all community projects of every college because the LPU family is being taught to become God-centered, to act as leaders, to practice integrity and to live nationalistic together with its adopted communities.

CONCLUSION

LPU like any other human being needs to be nourished. Every part of its entirety has significant role to play in order to perform the art of success. Every member of its organization must work together with commitment, competence, credibility and collaboration to reach its full potential to become a living emblem of truth and fortitude. Internationalization is not only in the minds of Lyceans but it also dwells in their hearts; it proliferates to all vital organs and flows in every single cell of the flesh. It is the way to educate the future where LPU travels miles away that opens million doors of countless blessings with boundless opportunities and challenges. Internationalization is a culture of excellence for LPU to live and a habit of meeting such greatness for the world to achieve.

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